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NOTE

Due to a computer failure, the 27 November 1984 Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT, Vol V No. 229, could not be published. Material from this volume will be published on 29 November. The DAILY REPORT regrets the inconvenience.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 NOVEMBER 1984

Lebanon

Jihad Members Arrested — Italian police have arrested seven Lebanese members of the Islamic Jihad Organization who are suspected of planning a terrorist attack on the U.S. Embassy in Rome, an Italian police official disclosed in a statement reported by ANSA.

Israel on Talks — Israel is "disappointed" with the way the Al-Naqurah talks are proceeding, especially with Lebanon's refusal to refer to Israel's proposal on UNIFIL deployment between the Al-Awwali and Al-Zahrani Rivers, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman announced in a statement reported by IDF radio. The stationing of UNIFIL in this area is an important part of the security arrangements without which Israel cannot withdraw from Lebanon, he said.

PNC Session

A powerful bomb exploded in Amman late on 27 November, half a mile from the PNC meeting site and near the hotel where PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and most PLO officials are staying, AFP reported, adding that there were no casualties.

Earlier, in his speech to the PNC on 26 November, broadcast on Amman radio, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf stated that he is not against rectifying relations with Syria, but he said there are political differences between Syria and the PLO in which the "key factor" is the present Syrian regime's opposition to an independent Palestinian state and to an independent PLO. Moreover, he asserted, the Syrians have no right to object to 'Arafat as leader of the PLO. As for King Husayn's proposals to the PNC session, acceptance of UN Resolution 242 "will not open doors" for the PLO, Khalaf said, but he proposed that King Husayn's initiative for joint action to work toward an international conference be referred to the PLO Executive Committee for study.

During the PNC session, the PLO Executive Committee chairman and members tendered their resignations, a move described by a PLO official as traditional preceding the final PNC meeting, to allow the PNC to elect a new Executive Committee and renew its confidence in its chairman, according to Amman radio.

In a related development, Israeli Labor Party Knesset member 'Abd al-Wahab Karawshah left for Amman "via a European country" to address the PNC with the demand that the PLO stop terrorist attacks and abrogate the Palestinian Charter clauses calling for the destruction of Israel, Jerusalem television disclosed, adding that the Israeli prime minister's office disclaimed any knowledge of the trip.

Mitterrand Visit to Syria

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and French President Francois Mitterrand held further talks in Damascus, focusing on Lebanon, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Iran-Iraq war, Damascus radio reported. As for bilateral relations, the two sides agreed to continue contacts and increase cooperation in the economic, cultural, and technical fields. At the end of the talks, which included one session lasting over 4 hours, a spokesman for Mitterrand indicated that differences continue to exist between the two sides, but that the talks should open a "new page" in Franco-Syrian relations, according to Paris radio. Mitterrand himself predicted that France's situation in Syria will improve as a result of his visit, AFP reported.

Reaction to Restoration of Iraqi-U.S. Relations

America has clearly joined the war against Iran, JANA declared, claiming that the U.S.-Iraqi decision to resume ambassadorial relations is a formality, because contacts between them and U.S. military and economic assistance had never stopped. In further Israeli reaction, a Foreign Ministry spokesman stated that Israel does not object to the renewal of Iraqi-U.S. ties as long as this does no harm to the "special" U.S.-Israeli relations, according to IDF radio. Another Israeli official cited by the radio stressed that Israel will "strongly oppose" any weapons sales to Iraq, adding that Washington has promised Israel that no such arms deals are to be expected.

GCC Summit Conference

In an address to the opening session of the GCC summit conference in Kuwait, carried by KUNA, the amir of Kuwait reiterated the GCC's appeal to Iran to respond to the call of peace and make room for good offices and reconciliation. However, a commentary on the summit by Tehran radio's Arabic service urged the GCC states to reconsider their policies on the Iran-Iraq war.

The GCC leaders began a working session on 28 November during which they will adopt the summit agenda and begin debates, KUNA noted.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

The war has "total priority," Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi stated in submitting Iran's 1985 draft budget to the Majlis, IRNA reported. The overall allocation for the war covered more than one-third of the budget of 3 billion rials, the agency added. Meanwhile, on the "Day of Mobilization and Security," the Revolution Guards were put on alert to demonstrate their role in safeguarding the towns, IRNA announced.

In a separate development, Tehran radio's Arabic service, citing *AL-JIHAD, claimed that an Israeli military delegation has* secretly visited Iraq.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Further Reportage on PNC Meeting

'Powerful' Bomb Explodes Near PNC Site

NC272211 Paris AFP in English 2204 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Amman, Nov 27 (AFP) — A powerful bomb exploded here tonight less than a kilometer (half a mile) from where the Palestine Liberation Organization's National Council was meeting, police said. There were no casualties but heavy damage, according to first reports. The bomb was planted near a government-run school in the Jabal al-Husayn residential quarter of the Jordanian capital, near the Regency Hotel where PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and most PLO officials are staying.

'Dissidents' Deny Message to Speaker

JN281111 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Text] PFLP-GC spokesman Fadl Shururu has explained that the report about the front sending a message to PNC Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih is groundless, and that the PFLP-GC considers the Amman meeting as null and void.

PLO Response to Husayn Speech

PM281005 Paris LE MONDE in French 25-26 Nov 84 p 20

[Eric Rouleau dispatch: "PLO Does Not Seem Ready to Rally Round the Plan Suggested by King Husayn"]

[Text] Amman — The PLO leadership does not intend to rally round to the "Husayn plan" for a settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the immediate future, although it approves the essence and form of this plan. This is the conclusion which can be drawn from remarks made in public or in private by various Palestinian resistance leaders.

Abu Jihad, member of the Central Committee of Fatah, the main PLO organization, explained to us why the king's proposals were "premature." "The PLO is, of course, determined to abide by international law" and has said it is ready to implement "all un resolutions on the Palestinian problem," including the one making provision for the coexistence of two states, one Jewish and the other arab. But, he added, Security Council resoluton 242 — the only one to which the Jordanian king referred — says nothing about "the Palestinian people's legitimate rights." Of course, Abu Jihad admitted, the UN document could be amended to include such a reference but, meanwhile, the fact remains that Israel is rejecting any settlement based on such premises.

The PlO fully and unreservedly supports the other aspects of the Husayn plan — Jordanian-Palestinian association and the convening of an international peace conference in particular — however, it thinks it is necessary to wait for the "situation to develop" before implementing them. In this respect the Palestinian leaders particularly welcome the king's pledge "never to conclude a separate peace with Israel."

Jordanian Information Minister Layla Sharaf told us that the king's sole objective is "to urge the PLO to adopt a positive stance" while having no illusions about the possibility of launching the peace process in the near future in view of the "resolutely negative" attitude adopted by Israel and the United States.

The PNC, the resistance's "parliament," will therefore probably not be asked to vote on the Jordanian king's proposals, as much for the official reasons invoked as for unconfessed tactical considerations connected with the fedayin federation's internal situation. Indeed various confidential statements show that Mr 'Arafat and his friends are anxious to accomodate some PLO organizations which accuse Fatah, if not of "treason" at least of seeking to reach an arrangement with the United States, Jordan, and Egypt, which are regarded as the Palestinian cause's enemies. Fatah would like reconciliation with the groups forming the Democratic Alliance, especially Mr Hawatimah's DFLP, Mr Habash's PFLP, and the Palestinian Communist Party.

The Firing of Mr Khalid Fahum

This desire for conciliation is motivated by the influence these organizations have in Palestinian opinion, especially in the occupied territories, and the good relations they have with Syria and the Soviet Union, still regarded — despite the present difficulties — as the Palestinian resistance's "strategic allies." Fatah is also taking account of the fact that — unlike the other dissident groups in the pro-Syrian Nationalist Alliance — the Democratic Alliance is opposed to a definitive split in the PLO.

It is precisely with a view to both the future and Palestinian opinion that the Fatah leaders, especially Yasir 'Arafat, vigorously opposed for 3 hours on the evening of Friday 23 November a debate on the fired of PNC Chairman Khalid Fahum, decided on as a result of his support for the Democratic Front dissidents. Recalling that the Palestinians in Jordan, Syria, southern Lebanon, and the occupied territories could watch the PNC session broadcast live by Jordanian television, Mr 'Arafat urged delegates "not to wash our dirty linen in public." Finally Mr Fahum was "relieved of his duties," without any other kind of procedure, by 188 votes to 7 with 11 abstentions.

Internal political considerations also prevailed in the election of Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sayih, Mr Fahum's successor, at the risk of giving the PLO an Islamic and confessional face for the first time since its foundation. Vigorously denying this interpretation in advance, various Palestinian leaders told Western journalists that the new PNC chairman is an "enlightened and modern Muslim," a "progressive" nicknamed the "red shaykh...."

Shaykh al-Sayih's Election

It is true that Shaykh Sayih, who has held very high religious office, first in Jerusalem and then in Amman — he is at present minister of religious property in the Jordanian Government — is unanimously respected by left and right for his strictly nationalist activities. He was interned by the British police before Israel's creation in 1948, deported by the Israeli Government in 1967, and since then has constantly campaigned for the creation of a Palestinian state.

In the eyes of Mr 'Arafat and his friends, Shaykh al-Sayih has the threefold advantage of having relations of trust with the Islamic movement in the occupied territories — which, moreover is very hostile to the PLO's secular line — with the left, Marxist and non-Marxist, and finally with the dissident organizations in Syria. "Shaykh al-Sayih is an accomplished politician who symbolizes our national unity," according to Mr Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee and the fedayin federation's information "minister."

This election corresponds to the "new phase in our struggle," PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman explained. He recalled that the last PNC session, held n Algiers in February 1983 was the one at which the so-called "open-door" diplomatic attitude prevailed. "Neither Israel nor the Western powers deemed fit to take advantage of the conciliatory attitude which then reigned in Palestinian opinion," the PLO spokesman stated before adding: "Since dialogue proved impossible, we decided to close all doors and devote ourselves to the fight against Israel in all its forms." This shows how unlikely it is that the Palestinian parliament will adopt the course of peace which King Husayn outlined in his speech on Thursday 22 November.

Spokesman Interviewed by AL-DUSTUR

PM271501 London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Nov 84 pp 8-9

[Interview with PLO official spokesman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman by Yusuf al-Rimawi in Amman — date not given]

[Excerpts] *AL-DUSTUR*: The atmosphere of the PNC is one of battle. That seems to be everyone's impression. What battle are you fighting, against whom, and why?

'Abd al-Rahman: We are of course engaged in a bitter battle for survival and identity. The primary purpose of the PNC's 17th session is to confirm the Palestinian identity and then escalate military action because we have only managed to clearly project the Palestinian identity through the gun. Contrary to the general impression, our battle is not against Syria. This time it is against the United States which is the party bent on destroying Fatah, the PLO, and all Palestinian action. Syria naturally plays a part in the battle. That part appears to be big when the battle appears to be between Syria and the PLO or, at least, Fatah.

AL-DUSTUR: What does Syria want and what interest does it have in such a battle?

'Abd al-Rahman: Let me first tell you what Fatah wants or what the Palestinian people want. We want to preserve Palestinian representation or, in other words, our national identity. The big question is why does Syria want to cancel the Palestinian identity? My brief and firm answer is that Syria is afraid of Fatah, not as a military power or a human entity but as a political and military phenomenon because it realizes that Fatah and the Palestinian revolution are the opposite of regional divisions. Let me tell you frankly that Fatah and the Palestinian revolution are the last symbol of Arab national action and the last attempt to prevent Arab capitulation to Israel.

AL-DUSTUR: How can this view or analysis be true when the holding of the PNC session is widely associated with the restoration of Jordanian-Egyptian relations and Reagan's reelection and is seen as a confirmation that Fatah and Abu 'Ammar [PLO Chairman 'Arafat] have opted for peaceful settlement and abandoned the military option permanently?

'Abd al-Rahman: Such claims represent the propaganda aspect or the political aspect of the plan for the liquidation of Fatah and the PLO following the failure of the military aspect — namely the 1982 Zionist campaign against the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement, and siege of Beirut. In fact the military aspect began in 1976 in Tall al-Za'tar where the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist movement were hit. The invasion of Lebanon was an advanced stage of that military aspect and in it the Syrian regime joined hands with regional and international sides opposed to our presence in Lebanon, the only territory left from which we could pursue our armed struggle against the Zionist entity.

AL-DUSTUR: But Syria participated in repulsing the Zionist invasion of Lebanon. Is that not so?

'Abd al-Rahman: Those who participated were officers and soldiers from the small field commands who acted on their own initiative. Al-Asad neither took the decision to participate nor did he participate. The evidence of this can be found in what Al-Asad himself said during the Fes summit conference. He said, verbatim: "I was told that the invasion would not go beyond 45 km." He of course got that information from Israel through Philip Habib. That means that Al-asad shared the invasion's main objective, which was to get the resistance out of Lebanon, and that he had reached agreement on that with Washington and Tel Aviv but his partners deceived him and marched on to Beirut. That is why Al-Asad later refused to receive or deal with Philip Habib.

So, Al-Asad did not participate in the Lebanon war because it was a war against an enemy he wanted to get rid of, just like Israel. That enemy was the Palestinian resistance. Had he participated in the 1982 war the Palestinian resistance bases would have moved to Syria. Al-Asad, of course, did not want that because he is against armed struggle. That is why he is not opposed to the PNC meeting.

AL-DUSTUR: If that is Syria's position how do you interpret the Soviet attitude toward the Syrian regime? Why should Moscow have an alliance with Damascus if, as you say, Al-Asad is implementing a U.S. plan?

'Abd al-Rahman: Let us say that Syria stands at a crossroads between the two superpowers or in a sphere of superpower influence conflict. Because of Syria's strategic position and because the Syrian regime has not in practical terms decisively identified its position in international relations, Moscow has opted for a presence within [Syria] and for long-term struggle. I addressed this same question to some Soviet officials during my visit to Moscow about 2 weeks ago. They, literally, replied: Do you want us to leave the Syrian arena to the Americans? As far as we are concerned Syria is situated in what we call an unresolved international sphere. There are signs of Soviet presence and

signs of U.S. presence in Syria. A popular saying in Syria goes as follows: "Andropov has the missiles and Murphy has the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon."

AL-DUSTUR: What do you say about the claims that the PNC intends to authorize or delegate Jordan to represent the Palestinian people in any future negotiations for a settlement?

'Abd al-Rahman: There will be no authorization or delegation. Jordan has not requested such a thing nor have we agreed or are likely to agree to such a thing. This is our firm irrevocable position.

AL-DUSTUR: What about the confederation plan?
'Abd al-Rahman: We are for a confederation based on an independent sovereign Palestinian state with its own flag, army, foreign minister, interior minister, passport, UN membership, and international recognition.

PFLP's Habash PNC Message

JN281046 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 27 Nov 84

["Text" of message by PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash to Palestinian people on PNC session on 27 November — read by announcer]

[Text] Palestinian nationalists and our steadfast masses in the occupied homeland: At this critical stage in the life of our people and of our militant march, our nationalist cause is being exposed to momentous perils seeking to cancel a historical stage in the struggle of our people and to threaten the Palestinian revolution's achievements and gains, foremost the destruction of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative. These perils consist of deviation, division, and containment. One of the practical manifestations of these perils, perhaps, is the unilateral call to convene the PNC in Amman, and in fact convening it in an illegal manner with all the political and organizational meanings that this entails and the constitutional violations and encroachments that result from it.

Convening the PNC in Amman, specifically at this time, has many serious political meanings but I will not go into details here. In spite of this, I must clearly point to the dimensions of the slippery course seeking to drag our organization into entering an alliance with reactionary Arab regimes, particularly with the Camp David regime in Egypt and the Jordanian regime, which is well known by our people.

Does such an alliance fulfill our people's aspirations in their persistent struggle to achieve their rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent national state? Does this step help our cause in any way or does it make it retreat several steps backward? I am fully confident that every Palestinian child knows the answer.

Brother citizens, the PLO is a broad national front comprising all classes and sectors, grouping all political factions and forces, and under whose banner all popular organizations and trade unions are working. Where is the Amman council from this formula? Or are they in the process of forming an organization of uniform color and do they want to deviate from our people's consensus and what was stipulated in our charter?

Sons of our hero people, what has taken place in spite of the perils and the difficulties is not the end of the road. Our faith is firm and our determination is unyielding. We will continue to struggle to restore unity to the PLO on a national, and progressive basis that is hostile to imperialism and Zionism. We will not be dissuaded from our constructive unionist trend by any obstacle.

Masses of our steadfast people in our homeland, Palestine: Our confidence is great in the ability of our people and their nationalist and progressive vanguards to overcome this tribulation and these perils into which the revolution and the PLO have been pushed. Our people, who have confronted the occupation and its schemes, have become well versed in struggle, and have offered thousands of martyrs and detainees in protection of their land, the achievements of their revolution, and their national decision-making will not permit red lines in the Palestinian arena to be crossed. Our people have in store many creative and new potentials for repulsing the conspiracy and protecting their triumphant march.

I appeal to the conscience, mind, and hearts of every Palestinian in our occupied homeland and tell our steadfast people that the principal battle is against occupation and its schemes. Let the guns be directed against our Zionist enemy. Let the efforts of all the popular forces, trade unions, and popular organizations become united to confront the threat of occupation, its schemes, and agents. You have seen blatant fascist manifestations in Umm al-Fahm, which are preparing to pounce on the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp now and tomorrow on all places in our sacred homeland.

As for the political differences, and in spite of their importance, the only way to overcome them is through a responsible and calm dialogue. By this, we will not give our Zionist enemy the opportunity to exploit our differences, and have it trap us in confrontations among the Palestinians which are nationally and militantly rejected. I do not wish you the destruction that is being prepared for us. This is our fate and this is our choice, and on this road the firm national will will triumph.

The blood of our martyrs, the tribulations, sacrifices, and sufferings of our people cannot go to waste. It is not permissible for us to forget them in the tumult of the political disputes. The enemy camp seeks to undermine our unity, shatter the gun of the armed struggle, and set off a series of disputes among the sons of the one homeland. Loyalty to our martyrs' sacrifices for the sake of our rich militant march can only be through a real national unity and a closing of ranks against our ferocious enemies.

The major task which all nationalists, factions, figures, and institutions must assume is a serious and patient struggle to regain PLO unity on a national basis that will be hostile to imperialism and Zionism, will safeguard the national independent decisionmaking, and will escalate the struggle in all its forms, particularly armed struggle against the Zionist entity. This can be done through a solid alliance with the Arab and world revolutionary forces.

Let us deprive our enemy of its opportunity and let us protect our march, revolution, and our organization from any deviation, division, and containment. We sincerely pledge to you that we will remain loyal to the martyrs' blood, and that we will exert our utmost efforts to unite the Palestinian arena inside and outside the occupied territories on the political and organizational bases of the Aden-Algiers agreement through a comprehensive national dialogue for convening a national unity session of the legitimate and only PNC.

I greet you and extend my hand to you. We will proceed together until victory and liberation are attained.

Salah Khalaf Addresses Session

JN271821 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Speech by Salah Khalaf, Fatah Central Committee member, before the PNC session in Amman on 26 November — recorded]

[Excerpts] Mr Speaker, sisters and brothers: The atmosphere we are experiencing these days during the convocation of the PNC does not just represent those meeting here — members, observers, and guests — but the situation of the Palestinian people in general, and our Arab nation in particular. Everyone is followng via the media every word that comes from this council. Everyone also awaits the resolutions of this council.

Although this council is convening in an ordinary session, it is in fact an extraordinary session. It was enforced by the coercive circumstances that this revolution and march have gone through. It was not our choice to convene this council with only those present. It was not our choice to convene this council in the absence of our brothers and comrades. Despite all our setbacks and sufferings, we have always made it a point to include them in all our council sessions. In fact, some people said that this session lacks the atmosphere of previous sessions.

Brothers, we are missing dear comrades-in-arms in this council. This is a fact. But in order not to torture ourselves, I tell you frankly that some of them did not want to be absent, but this absence was forced upon them. This has nothing to do with them in any way. It has nothing to do with their independence, patriotism, and struggle, but has a great deal to do with the need for a place, which is the need of every Palestinian and revolution. The need for a place forced some of our brothers not to attend this council.

The others who are absent did not only want to be absent but they also wanted to do away with the PLO. This is because they uphold a wrong philosphy which says: a settlement has been proposed to the Palestinians and Arabs. I do not know what settlement they are talking about. But this is what they are saying: A settlement is being imposed on the Arabs and the Palestinians. So how can we undermine this settlement? We can only do that by destroying the PLO.

So you can see that they are against this council in the first place. In fact, they have been against all council sessions in the past. They are also against the PLO. They hide their intentions by what they term rejection to prevent this people from gathering in the embrace of the PLO — this people who have lost their land and, in fact, everything except this organization. I agree with my brother Shafiq al-Hut that the PLO is a great achievement which we must preserve.

It is on this basis that we assumed the responsibility and called for the convocation of this national council. It was not because we wanted to move away from our brothers in the Palestinian arena or to use this council as a rostrum to attack them while they are absent. I am referring to those who love the PLO and fought for the establishment of the PLO. I do not mean those who sold their conscience and even their honor. I mean the honest ones. I mean in particular the Democratic Alliance, including the PFLP, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestinian Communist Party, and the Palestinian Liberation Front.

Some brothers have said that we must patch up differences and rectify our relations with Syria. I am not against rectifying these relations. I have also heard this in the speeches by my Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], my Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], Brother Hani al-Hasan, and every responsible person in the Palestinian arena. I have also heard this from the speeches by my Brother Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani, and Brother Shafiq al-Hut. They all talk about rectifying relations with Syria.

In order not to enter into any vituperation or any kind of outbidding, I say right away that slandering Syria may not be beneficial, but avoiding any reference to the Syrian stand is also not beneficial. We must state the facts first. Then our PNC can address itself to Syria and say: We want to rectify the relationship with you. This is because the Syrian regime is only a phase in the history of Syria. But Syria the people, and Syria the patriotic, will remain. We must preserve this Syria. As for the Syrian regime, it knows what its interests are.

I now ask my brothers and sisters in this council: Is it true that there are no political differences between us and Syria? Allow me to say: No, there are political differences between us and Syria. Syria, under the present regime, is not for the independent Palestinian state. This is the key factor in the differences. Syria is not for the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinians who enjoy an independent decisionmaking.

Is it permissible for the Syrian regime to say that it does not want Yasir 'Arafat? Only we here in this council, whether as individuals or a group, can say no to Yasir 'Arafat or any other Palestinian leader in this arena. But it is absolutely impermissible for the Syrian regime or any other Arab regime to say: We do not want this or that man. So there are differences with Syria. And I believe that they are political and not personal differences. The dispute was never between Yasir 'Arafat and the Syrian regime. The matter boils down to the question: Do we Palestinians have the right to chose our representatives or not?

The other point in the dispute is the subject of the state. Who among you heard Syria [talk about the independent Palestinian state] from 1971 to 1978? I am saying from 1971 to 1978, because 1979 marked Al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and the Camp David accords. The talk about the independent Palestinian

state did not begin at the Ba'th Party congress in Syria or in the Syrian Government. Only when President al-Asad visits any country, is a reference made to the independent Palestinian state in the joint communique. So there are political differences. Let me ask you: When there were good relations between Jordan and Syria from 1971 to 1979, where were we? I remember that in several meetings, Abu 'Ammar used to tell President al-Asad and other brothers who are here today: Find us a way in these relations between you and Jordan. We want to turn a new page. Abu 'Ammar was told: Wait a minute.

How was the Jordanian regime at that time? What has changed in it? King Husayn is still at the head of the regime and chooses his own government. Why was it when Syria decided that Jordan was a progressive, nationalist democratic country, nobody opposed it in the Palestinian or Arab arena, but when we decided to convene our council in Amman we were accused of high treason? Are these not strange paradoxes, brothers? This is our independent decisionmaking. From 1971 — and I will not say before that — and until 1979 the Jordanian regime was excellent. But when the Jordanian regime differed with the Syrian regime, then it must be subjected to a slanderous campaign.

In 1978 there was a historical unity, a national charter between Iraq and Syria. Our national council was meeting in Damascus by coincidence. That historical unity could have set Fatah aside and made the other organizations support the historical national charter. To Syria at that time, Iraq was excellent. A dispute occurred between Iraq and Syria; therefore, instigations had to be made against Iraq in order to make us support Iran. With all due respect to the Iranian revolution, we thought that it would compensate us for Egypt's temporary departure from the battlefield.

We expected a great deal from the Iranian revolution. But instead of directing its guns at Jerusalem, it directed them at Baghdad. Why? Simply to overthrow the head of the Iraqi regime. Yasir 'Arafat should be overthrown by the PLO, and Saddam Husayn should be overthrown by Baghdad. Is it not unfair? Is it conceivable? Can an individual be so strong that wars are declared and the region's economic, human, and political resources squandered just to overthrow this individual?

Let us talk about Libya, although we in the council do not like to talk much about Libya. Some people believe — and my Brother Mahmud Darwish will support me here — that Libya is an unfortunate regime. Libya declared a unity with Morocco. My Brother Shafiq was not frank on this subject, but I will be frank. Libya declared a unity with Morocco. Only a few days — and I will not say months — before the unity, the Voice of the Arab Homeland radio — by the way this radio broadcasts only after midnight when people are asleep — said all kind of things against the king of Morocco. Of course, we do not support such talk. I will cite some of what the radio aid: The king of Morocco is the godfather of Camp David; the king of Morocco is responsible for Arab-Israeli relations; and finally, the king of Morocco hosted the Zionist conference in Morocco. This is what the Libya radio and officials used to say. Then unity was suddenly declared, and very soon the Libyans would turn King Hassan into Che Gueverra and the hero of all heroes. Of course I am only quoting them.

Why brothers? The announcers on Damascus and Tripli radios and the television networks comment on every report about us. I jokingly told them: You have become like unions which do nothing but write statements. Have we heard a statement from the Syrians saying that this unity is between progressive and reactionary regimes and asking how such a unity can be viable? Nobody said anything. Why? Because Al-Qadhdhafi is a revolutionary who has confidence in himself, but we have no confidence. When we hold the council in Amman it is a loss for us. Why? What conditions will be imposed on us? If I speak out, perhaps the most that the Jordanian radio and television will do is to censor some words. And they are free to do that. But does this prevent anyone from saying what he wants?

The question is more than that. Believe me, the truth of the crisis between us and Syria is that Syria does not want an independent Palestinian state. The truth of the crisis also is that they do not want the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. If we want to rectify the relationship with Syria, and I support the rectification of our relationship with Syria, we must raise two points. Syria must abide by the Arab summit resolutions. It must not abide by only those concerning it, but also those that concern others. The Rabat summit said that the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It also said that the Palestinians must choose the method of liberating their country. At the Baghdad summit, the Arabs were even more frank. They called for noninterference in the affairs of the PLO and the Palestinian revolution.

Some people may say that these are differences between the Palestinians themselves. Had the differences between the Palestinians themselves [sentence as heard]. You have heard the secretary general of the Arab League. I respect and love the secretary general, but I will not hide the fact that his words were more painful than the rockets that were fired on Al-Baddawi. He kept talking about the split in Palestinian ranks. But he did not say a single word about those who caused or encouraged this split.

Regarding the rectification of relations with Syria, we are for rectification of relations with Syria because we are not to blame. We stood outside Syria's door for 26 months. I tell my brothers here that you may think that by our speeches we are waging a campaign against the Syrian regime. We are not. The one waging the campaign are the Syrians who are keeping their television open until 0100 every night broadcasting whole series of talks fomenting Palestinian division. The rectification of relations demands that we say we are ready for healthy relations with Syria on condition that these relations are based on the fact that the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and that there will be no interference whatsoever in the affairs of the PLO. I consider encouragement of the Fatah dissidence as interference.

We have gone through a hard period, not because it affected Fatah, but because it affected the conscience and dream of the Palestinian people which is the most precious thing they own, and which is their strong unity through the PLO. We must not always remain silent about the past, Brother Shafiq and Brother Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani. We have no grudges. There are no grudges or rancors in politics. But our people must know everything. This relationship could continue for an indefinite period. Nobody

should come later and say: You have failed to give us the true picture. For 26 months we stood at Syria's door. Recently, we made a decision in the Central Committee, and made it binding on everyone, to wage a peace offensive on Syria; from President Hafiz al-Asad to the smallest official. General Mustafa Talas has insulted us left and right. Recently, he said he is ready to take Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian leadership to the Golan to fight. I tell him: I do not want to go to the Golan, you go to the Golan. Go to the Golan. I do not want anyone to take me to the Golan. [applause] We are not saying that the Golan is not an Arab territory. We are concerned about the Golan as much as we are concerned about Palestine. But I am only pointing out this contempt. Brothers, whoever does not rise in defense of his people and homeland does not deserve to be leader in the Palestinian arena. [applause]

Let us now talk about the political moves in the Palestinian arena. I honestly thank His Majesty King Husayn for his courage [applause] in convening this council here. He could have rejected us like some other Arab regimes. Some people say: You want to empower King Husayn to speak on your behalf. I ask them: When King Husayn comes here and says: You are the sole, legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people, I take his words as the truth. Why this lack of self-confidence? We must act from self-confidence. We have said for the umpteenth time that the venue does not enforce the decision on us, especially when the owner of this venue does not have a desire to enforce this decision. We are the ones who enforce this decision. We have said it for the umpteenth time.

Let us discuss some political matters. Whoever is against political action does not understand world revolutions. The Vietnamese were fighting, and they had the opportunity to fight because they had Hanoi. But they also negotiated. They negotiated in Paris while they fought in Vietnam. They fought the greatest battles. but they also conducted the best negotiations. We do not lack similar abilities.

We believe that the mere acceptance of UN Resolution 242 will not open the doors for us. And I do not believe that King Husayn meant this. I said this to my brothers who discussed the subject. Jordan has accepted Resolution 242 since 1967, even before the PLO was approved by the Arabs in 1974 as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Peace in exchange for territory. What is our opinion on it? I bravely say: With your council's approval, we believe that the international conference — we agreed to this conference under the Brezhnev initiative and the French initiative — that is attended by the big powers or the Security Council members, especially the two superpowers, the USSR and the United States, the PLO and the other concerned parties is the suitable means or framework for solving the Palestine and Middle East questions. If this is the case we and Jordan could raise the slogan: Peace in exchange for withdrawal from the Arab and Palestinian territory. Peace in exchange for — and this is a condition — the establishment of the Palestinian state through our people's right to self-determination and to return. There is also an Arab commitment to the Fes plan. Could this plan be a basis for the international conference? Could we and Jordan tell the Arab states you have signed this plan, so show us the way? The fear comes not from the international conference and not from our joint moves with Jordan. On the contrary, we must move with Jordan and any Arab state. I propose that your council refer King Husayn's initiative to the Executive Committee so it can study it within this broad framework and in light of the PLO's approved political program.

Having discussed Arab issues, we must now speak briefly about the international community. Brother 'Abdallah al-Hurani regretted the absence of some of our comrades in the socialist bloc countries, headed by the USSR, from this council. But I say: What we have learned is that the USSR is trying hard to act as the key to a future settlement with Syria and some of our brothers in the Palestinian organizations. Therefore, it preferred to remain neutral. I may not be precise when I say neutral. It preferred to be an observer. My brother Hani [al-Hasan] spoke about the international equations and about Yalta. We did not have any friends in Yalta, Versailles, Vienna, or elsewhere. But it is definite that the USSR is our friend and we must not forget it. This should be considered as a passing cloud. We must extend our hands to it. We must not forget that it is our friend in this world. We must not forget that on the other side is the United States whose only friend is its interests. Its story with Kuwait, Jordan, and Saudi Arabians is well-known. It said no to surface-to-air weapons for defense. It said no to defense aid. Why? Because the Zionist tyranny in the United States tells them not to give weapons. This has prompted Jordan, Kuwait - - and later Saudi Arabia, God willing — to purchase arms from the USSR. [applause]

Finally, allow me to address our greetings on your behalf to our great people all over the occupied territory — from Galilee to Gaza, Tulkarm, Nablus, and all towns and villages. I address your greetings and express our pride in our detainees in the prisons in the occupied territory. I address our greetings to our Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners in Ansar. I address our greetings to the Lebanese national resistance which is fighting in defense of Arab honor. I tell all the brothers who ask us to back and assist, that we do not back and assist, we participate in the Lebanese national resistance . Our greetings to the great Lebanese people who stood with us in all our crises.

Finally, greetings of pride and unity to our Jordanian people. We are one people. Many forces tried to split us. From this national council we tell them we press our hands on every individual in Jordan; every women, child, and man in this community, we tell them, as Brother Hani al-Hasan said, we will never be separated again. We will face our common destiny and challenges. Whoever tries to separate Palestinians and Jordanians must know that as His Majesty King Husayn said: There is no room for this chauvinism. We are one hand and one country. It is a revolution unto victory. [applause]

Report on Khalaf Speech

JN271050 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Nov 84 p 18

[Text] Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, has said that His Majesty King Husayn's initiative put forth in his speech at the opening of the 17th PNC session will be referred to the PLO Executive Committee for thorough study

with the objective of reaching a joint concept of Palestinian-Jordanian action in the Arab and international arenas regarding the international conference in which all the parties concerned will participate, including the PLO and the UN Security Council permanent members.

In an important speech before the PNC last night, Abu Iyad stressed that moving with Jordan is essential so that a joint plan that is necessitated by the nature of the historic relations and the fateful cohesion between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples can be agreed upon to achieve the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state. He praised the distinguished relations between the two fraternal peoples. He said that all attempts to harm these relations have failed. He stressed the importance of political action as a support for military action. He said: We have not run away from military battles and we will not run away from political battles.

Abu Iyad reviewed all stages of Palestinian action in the past 2 years on the Arab, Palestinian, and international levels. He held the Syrian and Libyan regimes directly responsible for the dissidents' coup attempt to serve the Syrian regime in containing the PLO and confiscating its national independent decisionmaking. He stressed that the differences with the Syrian regime are political differences that are based on two facts; namely, that the Syrian regime does not support an independent Palestinian state and refuses to recognize the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative, and that it has an independent decision.

He reviewed the Syrian regime's stands since 1971 toward the PLO — stands that prove these facts. He said that the Syrian regime's demand for toppling PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is a strange demand, and that the objective of this demand is to confiscate the national independent Palestinian decisionmaking. He said: We consider this flagrant interference in the PLO's affairs. He linked the Syrian regime's stand toward 'Arafat with the Iranian regime's demand for toppling Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, stressing that both demands are aimed at dealing a blow to Arab Iraq and the PLO which represent two major forces in the conflict with the Zionist enemy.

Abu Iyad gave many examples of the Syrian regime's policy against the PLO. He said: In many sessions held between 'Arafat and some of the resistance leaders on the one hand, and the president of the Syrian regime on the other, the Syrian president treated them with disdain and insisted that the relations between some Arab countries and the PLO must take place through him. He pointed out that when Syrian-Iraqi relations deteriorated in 1979, the Syrian president asked the PLO to adopt a hostile stand toward Iraq, but the PLO rejected this request.

Abu Iyad pointed out that the convocation of the PNC in Amman is a historic victory for the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. He said everyone is awaiting the important decisions the PNC will adopt in light of the delicate circumstances through which the PLO is passing. He expressed regret because the Democratic Alliance's representatives did not attend the PNC session. He said that some of them were forced to be absent, and that this does not affect patriotism, independence, and struggle.

Regarding the National Alliance, he said: The objective of this alliance is not only to be absent from the PNC session, but it has sought along with the Syrian and Libyan regimes to remove the PLO from the arena and confiscate its national independent decisionmaking. He said that those who have sold conscience and honor and shelled their people deserve to be renounced by their people. He expressed Fatah's commitment to the Aden-Algiers agreement, and considered it as a firm platform for the continuation of the comprehensive dialogue. He called on the PNC to consider this agreement when formulating its political decisions.

He asked the PNC to select a number of independent members to participate as witnesses in any comprehensive dialogue with the Democratic Alliance. Abu Iyad strongly condemned Ahmad Jibril and his group. He said: We know his criminal role in striking at the revolution since 1965. He said that Jibril was always looking for means to fight the revolution. He called for the expulsion of Jibril and his group from the PNC, because he had hatched plots against the Palestinian people, fought them in the Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid camps, and had stood amid the rubble of the Palestinian people in the Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid camps and declared that he would chase 'Arafat and his fighters from one house to another to destroy them.

He said that the conspiracy was aimed at depriving us of the victory that we achieved against the enemy in Beirut. He said: Unfortunately, they have used a group of plotters against the PLO — plotters who have fought us brutally in order to force us to leave all the Lebanese parties and to prevent them from fighting the enemy — to deprive us of this victory. Abu Iyad wondered: How can the Syrian regime accuse us of relinquishing armed struggle, especially since it has fought us and expelled us from the Lebanese territories, in implementation of its 10 June 1982 agreement with Philip Habib which stipulates that our forces must leave the Lebanese territories.

Abu Iyad expressed his support for the Iraqi people's struggle in their just war with Iran. He appreciated Iraq's positive stands toward all the regional and international initiatives, and called on the Arab states to seriously interfere in order to stop this war which exhausts Iraq's resources and diverts it from the Arabs' central cause. He said: Because the war has continued and because Egypt was absent from the Arab arena, Israel dared to enter Lebanon with such a force. He said that the continuation of the war deprives the PLO and the Palestinian people of the Iraqi people's potentials and their valiant army. He added: We must work to end this war, so that Iraq will not feel that it is isolated. The PNC called for appealing to Iran to stop this war and to respond to Iraq's calls.

Regarding 'Arafat's visit to Cairo, Abu 'Iyad said: This visit took place under tragic circumstances following the very delicate circumstances the PLO experienced during the Tripoli incidents. He said that 'Arafat paid this visit to give appreciation for Egypt's stand and its nationalist forces during the siege of Beirut and Tripoli, in an attempt to help Egypt find a way out of Camp David. He praised Husni Mubarak's positive stands and called on the PNC to discuss these stands. He said: We unhesitatingly

support relations with Egypt from the position of rejecting Camp David.

Abu Iyad pointed out that the circumstances Al-Sadat created in Egypt are very complicated. He appealed to the Egyptian president to not make what Al-Sadat reached as a ceiling of the settlement. He appreciated the Egyptian nationalist parties' stands and their support for the Palestine question. He pointed out that the PLO is experiencing a very delicate situation, and that doors must be opened gradually and without fear.

Abu Iyad said: It is necessary for us to make radical reforms in the PLO's institutions and departments, and we must take the evil doers to account. He called on the PNC to legislate the law of: Where did you get this from? And to purge the revolution from the corruption of the past years. He also called on the PNC to form a committee entrusted with rebuilding the PLO, and to reconsider its offices and the work of the employees in these offices. He said: There must be a revolution within the revolution, in order to redress its course and to guarantee its strong continuation.

He appreciated Saudi Arabia's stand toward fulfilling all of its financial commitments to the PLO, and appealed to the other GCC states which did not pay their financial commitments in accordance with the Baghdad summit's resolutions to pay them, because this is a sacred right necessitated by pan-Arab duty. In this regard, he denounced the Libyan regime, because it renounced the Baghdad Summit resolution and did not fulfill its financial commitments to the PLO. He said that this regime spends millions to strike at the PLO, and to hatch plots against it and against the Arab nation.

Concluding his speech, Abu Iyad greeted the socialist states — especially the USSR — the nonaligned, the African, and the Islamic states for their stands toward the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people's inalienable rights.

Political, Military, Legal Committees Meet

JN271357 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Amman — The PNC Political Committee held its first session this morning. The Committee elected Dr Nabil Sha'th as chairman and Nasif 'Awwad as rapporteur. During its meetings today, the committee will discuss the reply to the political report which was presented by Faruq Qaddumi. The Committee discussed important issues, including intra-Palestinian relations, restorating unified Palestinian action, the comprehensive dialogue with various Palestinian factions, and the Aden-Algiers agreement.

The PNC committees met this morning to discuss the agendas. These committees will present their suggestions and recommendations to the PNC which will continue its meetings this evening under Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih.

The PLO Military Committee met under Chairman Brigadier General Ahmad 'Afanah. Brig Gen 'Afanah stated that the Committee is reviewing the recommendations since the PNC's 16th session that was held in Algeria and up to the present time. The Committee is discussing the recommendations that were implemented in the previous program as well as those that were not implemented. At the beginning of its meetings today, the Committee elected Brig Gen 'Afanah as chairman and 'Attallah 'Atallah and Salim al-Burdini as rapporteurs.

The PNC Legal Committee met this morning udner Chairman Dr Anis al-Qasim. The Legal Committee is discussing the matters forwarded by the PNC, including the suggestions to deprive some members of their membership, to reconsider the basic statutes of the PLO Central Council, and to establish permanent committees for the PLO, including a permanent legal committee to discuss the legal issues related to the PLO. In a statement to PETRA, Dr al-Qasim said the Committee's agenda does not include amending the PLO's basic statutes or the PNC's bylaws. Dr al-Qasim did not affirm or deny that the PLO Executive Committee members would be increased or reduced. He noted that if a legal opinion concerning this matter is required, the committee would discuss this matter.

Resignation of Two Members Approved

JN271916 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Amman, 27 Nov (PETRA) — During its session this evening under Speaker 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih , the PNC approved the resignation of Zaki Rayya and Khalil al-Tabari from the PNC for health reasons. It also rejected the resignation submitted by PNC memebr Zafir al-Khadra.

Political Committee To Study Confederation

JN271946 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Amman — Nabil Sha'th, chairman off the PNC Political Committee, has announced that the committee approved a recommendation in which it highly appreciated the formula that His Majesty King Husayn proposed during his speech at the opening of the 17th session of the PNC last Thursday. He added that the committee has recommended that the formula be placed within the framework of strengthening joint Jordanian-Palestinian relations, drawing up a move to liberate the land and establish a Palestinian state on the Palestinian soil, and working out a formula for a confederation between Jordan and Palestine. He also pointed out that this recommendation will be referred to the Executive Committee to be studied in light of the 17th session of the PNC.

Council Increased by Fifteen to 412 Members

JN271204 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Nov 84 pp 1, 20

[Text] Amman — PNC has admitted 15 new members who represent popular organizations. They are:

Workers: Sulayman 'Ali Ahmad and 'Ali Rabi'
Engineers: 'Adnan Samarah and Burhan Jarrar
Teachers: Intisar Mar'i, Husni Zu'rub, and Fathi Bal'awi

Women's sector: 'Ubaydah al-Kazimi and Ihsan Barnawi
Doctors and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society: 'Abdallah al-Wajih
Writers and journalists: Ahmad Dahbur, Salwa al-'Amad, and 'Arafat Hijazi
Artists: Muhammad Barud
Thus, the total number of PNC members is 412.

'Arafat, Executive Committee Resign
JN280710 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Text] Amman — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat tendered his resignation and that of the PLO Executive Committee members during the meeting of the PNC Political Committee last night.

PNC Political Committee Chairman Dr Nabil Sha'th said that the PLO tradition necessitates that the PLO Executive Committee chairman tender his resignation and that of the PLO Executive Committee members. He added that this takes place in every PNC session on the day preceding the PNC's final session. He said this allows the PNC to elect a new PLO Executive Committee and renew confidence in its chairman.

Dr Sha'th added: Despite the fact that this takes place in every PNC session, the members always respond emotionally to express their love, response, and appreciation for Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], because he is not just an ordinary leader but a symbol of a revolution and a people's struggle. The responsibility of leading the PLO is a great one and Brother Abu 'Ammar enjoys no other privileges that might tempt him to assume this responsibility other than his affiliation to his people and revolution and his continuous readiness to sacrifice for the sake of his cause. Sha'th continued: The people's confidence in him both inside and outside the occupied territories and among the PLO leaders is undoubtedly the major reason for his continuing to assume this great responsibility.

The PNC Political Committee held a closed session following the conclusion of the PNC session last night. During this session, Yasir 'Arafat delivered a lengthy speech in which he explained all the circumstances that the PLO has experienced since the 16th PNC session.

PNC Resumes; 'Arafat Withdraws Resignation
JN281030 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Text] Amman — The PNC has resumed its meetings at the Palace of Culture in the Al-Husayn Youth City. It held an open session during which it discussed PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's resignation which he tendered to the PNC Political Committee during its closed session last night.

At the beginning of the session, PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih delivered a speech in which he called on 'Arafat to withdraw his resignation due to the circumstances the PLO is experiencing, and which necessitates that the current Palestinian leadership continue to shoulder its responsibilities. A number of PNC members also delivered speeches in which they called on 'Arafat to continue his national responsibilities and not to submit to pressures which seek to impose their will on the Palestinian revolution. In response to the comprehensive calls on 'Arafat, the PLO Executive Committee Chairman has announced the withdrawal of his resignation.

The PNC is scheduled to resume its work in an open session this evening to discuss the report prepared by the Political Committee and elect a new PLO Executive Committee.

Sources Say PLO To Dissolve Council
JN280951 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Nov 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — Palestinian sources have said that the PLO leadership has decided in prineiple to dissolve the PLO Central Council which includes 70 members among whom are the Palestinian factions' secretaries general and a number of PNC members.

'Arafat's 28 Nov Address
JN281550 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Speech delivered by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at the 28 November morning session of the PNC in Amman; carried within the "Newsreel" program — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. We have not sent down the Qur'an to thee to be an occasion for they distress. But only as an admonition to those who fear God, a revelation from Him Who created the earth and the heavens on high. God most gracious is firmly established on the throne of authority. [Koranic verse]

Brothers, what I proposed in the Political Committee yesterday stemmed from a conviction in democracy, of which we in the Palestinian arena are proud. It was a lengthy speech, but it was my duty to make it. It is customary for the Executive Committee members to submit their resignations at every council session. This year, I had intended to submit my resignation in my opening PNC speech. However, my brothers insisted that I not do this in front of his majesty and that I postpone the announcement. Yesterday, after I stated my case — by this I mean before the Political Committee — particularly after the turmoil in the Palestinian arena. [sentence as heard] As I have said to you, the one who possesses the Palestinian decision for Yasir 'Arafat to resign or stay is the Palestinian legitimate authority, the independent national Palestinian decisionmakiners — the PNC.

The brothers know that I was among those who were worried. I was not too worried, because I have a great belief in these people and in the brother PNC members, who were confirmed by events to be responsible and extremely courageous in facing all kinds of pressures against them. It is necessary to mention these pressures that were exerted on our PNC members. Half or more than half of the 119 members who did not attend had their movements restricted. Their sons were threatened, their lives were

threatened, their houses and their families were threatened. They were threatened over passports — you all know how important passports are to the Palestinians. They were threatened with everything. Despite this, I have here before me those heroes who came from Lebanon and who said to them: What do you want? There is not going to be anything bigger than Israel's threats and might. You are not going to do more than Israel has done. They came, and they are here attending your PNC. [applause] I say that our people responded decisively to the conspiracy and conspirators when the quorum was attained. This march must continue; it must continue whether the conspirators, the conspiracy, Israel, the United States, and the Israeli and U.S. agents wish it or not. The PNC was held.

Here, it was my duty to say to the brothers: I am returning the trust to you. You are the ones who decide. No Arab leader, no parasite in the Arab arena, or anyone who claims Arabism or progresshas the right to say who should head this organization. [applause] Please, brothers, you must say long live Palestine. We are merely unknown soldiers. [applause] Brothers, this revolution is as the poet says: Manhood necessitates that we make a bridge of our bodies to enable all of our comrades to cross. To cross to Palestine, [applause] to cross to Jerusalem.

The recent crisis and the war that was planned by the United States and Israel — U.S. arms and Israeli arms and Army — was approved by Arab sides. I wish to remind you — historians, writers, and journalists — of the minutes of the second Fes Summit, because it contained all aspects of the crime. Some people admitted that they knew about and approved the war against the Palestinian revolution. All this is mentioned in the documents of the second Fes Arab Summit. Yesterday, I said: Here is my resignation. I felt pressured that I was not submitting my resignation to the Arab League. Yesterday, I told the brothers in the Political Committee that Brother Abu al-Adib [Salim al-Za'nun] had spoken about Al-Shuqayri. Al-Shuqayri had many merits, brothers. The Arab League appointed this man, God bless his soul, [applause] as its representative to the Palestinian people. Al-Shuqayri made his tour and returned to the Arab League as Palestine's representative in the Arab League. [applause] He told them that there was an organization called the PLO, which the Palestinian people wanted to be their sole, legitimate representative at the Arab League and in the Arab nation and masses. [applause]

I am saying this. brothers, because now we should be sincere. When I submitted my resignation yesterday, God knows that I was not running away from the responsibility. You all know that I do not run away from responsibility. However, I want to give history an example that anyone of us can do this. Khalid ibn al-Walid gave up the command. He was ordered to hand over the command to Abu 'Ubaydah al-Jarrah, and he did. [applause] Therefore, you have the right, in your capacity as representatives of the Palestinian legitimate authority, to say to me: Go or stay, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. Only you brothers and this council have the right to ask me to submit an account of myself to you. I submitted that account yesterday. I was very happy to submit it to the Political Committee. It is recorded in the minutes of the meetings. I told them that this is my account. I told them that now that I have submitted my account, you have the right to replace the leader. People have the right to change their leaders at any time. When I said this, it was out of the conviction so that these young ones understand that no single Palestinian person can cling to a throne, place, or position.

We are all on the path of martyrdom. [applause] I am saying this so that everyone can realize that our people's greatest one is the martyr, the martyr. They are the ones who sacrificed the most. We hope that God will grant us martyrdom, and that we will not die as cowards. Khalid ibn al-Walid said: I pray to God that I will only die as a martyr, defending this nation. [applause] I do not care how I die, as long as I die a Muslim. [applause]

Brothers, I did not say what happened. The other day I said that they sent a Sukhoi to the Riyaq airfield in preparation for strafing the PNC building. My brothers the Jordanian officials are flying their aircraft 24 hours a day to protect your PNC. [applause] I say many things whe I speak, my brothers. Yesterday they tried to give vent to their feelings by placing a 1 or 1.5 kg bomb in the front yard of the PLO office. The mountain is thus only a molehill. I want to tell them that we were not frightened by all the rockets of the United States and Israel. Abu al-Za'im ['Atallah Muhammad 'Atallah] may remember that when they fired 165,000 bombs in 1 day. I told him that people will not believe such a great number of bombs in 1 day. The next day, Israel said that it fired 210,000 bombs on Beirut. We were not frightened by 210,000 bombs, so how can we be afraid of one Sukhoi or of a 2-kg bomb? [applause]

I say frankly, and out of a position of responsibility, that when I tendered my resignation I felt that I was telling the plotters that they could not dismiss me. As my brother Abu al-Adib has said, fighting was fierce. They did not spare any of my brothers in the Central Committee, to whom I bow with respect. Exactly 2 months ago, I tendered my resignation to my brothers in the Central Committee and the Executive Committee. I told them that I might be impeding the march — and every march needs a scapegoat. I told them to find someone else if I interrupted the march. Somebody else may come and lead the march. My brothers repled by saying that what was meant was not Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], but the PLO. I yielded to the opinion of my brothers in the Executive Committee and the Central Committee at that time. However, when our PNC convenes, I am entitled to repeat the Koranic verse: We did indeed offer the trust to the Heavens and the Earth and the mountains; but they refused to undertake it, being afraid thereof: But man undertook it; he was indeed unjust and follish.

Therefore, I am entitled to tell you that this is your trust. I do not say this, brothers, in order to [words indistinct] a house. I do not have a house, as you all know. I will be one of your soldiers. [applause] I am a soldier in this revolution, but I am also the last to disobey and the first to obey. [applause] Obey whom? By God, I pray five times a day. I bow to your will and decision. I can only bow with respect for this great Shaykh [al-Sa'ih], who told me: Abu 'Ammar, you know that my age does not enable me to assume all these responsibilities; however, since I know the circumstances require me to assume responsibility, I welcome it. [applause] I say this, hoping that Gid will forgive me and you. It is a revolution until victory. [applause]

Brothers, I still want to say that before the war in Beirut I said that we would enter a dark tunnel. When I returned from the first Fes Summit, I said that Fes would turn into a blow against us, because the Arabs' failure to meet at the first Fes Summit would be a blow to us. I told them that we were entering a dark tunnel. However, nobody believed me. I also said that Beirut would be besieged, but nobody believed me. I was not telling the future, but the facts. When we studied these facts in our operations room along with the information we had, we came to this conclusion. I also said something which you remember, brothers. I said that I could see light at the end of the tunnel, and in this light I could see Jerusalem's churches amd minarets. [applause] Believe me, brothers, this visition has not changed to this moment. I can see Jerusalem's churches and minarets before my eyes. And to enter your Temple as they had entered it before. [Koranic verse] [applause]

17th PNC Session Extended Until Thursday

JN280944 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Nov 84 pp 1, 20

[Text] Amman — The PNC will not conclude its 17th session this evening as was scheduled. It has been decided to extend its convocation until tomorrow, Thursday, to enable the various committees to complete discussion of the reports they have prepared for PNC approval and related recommendations and decisions. Last night's meetings focused on preparing the draft PNC political statement. The political program that the PNC will approve for political and military action in the coming stage has become clear through the Political Committee's deliberations. It is clear that this statement will be based on previous PNC resolutions, especially those of the 16th PNC session which was held in Algiers.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC Leaders Arrive in Kuwait for Summit

GF271214 Kuwait Television Service in Arabic 0720 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Editorial report] Kuwait Television Service in Arabic in a linkup with Manama Television Service in Arabic and Riyadh Television Service in Arabic, at 0720 GMT on 27 November begins a live relay with good reception from Kuwait airport of the arrival of GCC heads of states and their accompanying delegations for the 5th GCC Summit to be held in Kuwait. At 0723 GMT the plane of UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan arrives at Kuwait airport. At 0727 GMT the UAE President disembarks from the plane and is met by the Amir of Kuwait, Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, and other senior officials, during which, the announcer says, he is given a 21-gun salute which is heard but not seen. The two leaders then step onto a podium while a band plays the national anthems of the two countries. At 0731 GMT the two leaders inspect a guard of honor, and then the UAE president proceeds to shake hands with government officials, shaykhs, senior officials and members of foreign diplomatic missions. At 0736 GMT the two leaders proceed to the reception hall where they are seated and seen taking drinks and talking. GCC Secretary General 'abdallah Bisharah and other senior officials are seen in the hall. At 0750 GMT the two leaders leave the hall and the UAE president is seen departing by automobile for his place of residence. The live transmission ends at 0754 GMT. The stations remain linked up and musical and cultural programs are carried.

At 0759 GMT the plane of the amir of Bahrain, Shaykh 'isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, is shown taxing down the runway. At 0802 GMT the amir disembarks from the plane and embraces the amir of Kuwait. The Bahraini amir then receives flowers from two young girls. The two leaders then step onto the reception podium as their countries' national anthems are played. The two leaders then inspect the guard of honor. At 0806 GMT the amir greets Kuwaiti senior officials and then the two leaders proceed to the reception hall followed by other Bahraini and Kuwaiti officials. The two leaders are then seated and seen talking and taking drinks. At 0820 GMT the two leaders leave the reception hall and the amir of Bahrain's motorcade then leaves for his place of residence.

At 0823 GMT the plane of Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani is seen arriving at the airport. At 0827 GMT the Amir of Qatar disembarks from the plane and is greeted by the amir of Kuwait and other officials. After receiving bouquets of flowers from young girls, the amir of Qatar accompanies the Kuwaiti amir to the podium and then the band plays the national anthems of the two countries. The two leaders then inspect the guard of honor, after which the amir shakes hands with the officials and notables present to receive him. At 0834 GMT the two leaders enter the reception hall and are followed by various officials. They are then seen talking and taking drinks. At 0841 GMT the two leaders leave the reception hall and the amir of Qatar departs in a motorcade for his place of residence. Live transmission stops at 0845 GMT. The television stations remain linked up and carry musical programs.

At 0853 GMT the plane of Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman is seen arriving. At 0858 GMT the Sultan disembarks from the plane and the Kuwaiti amir receives him. The sultan receives flowers from two young girls and then proceeds to the podium, at which time the national anthems of the two countries are played. The two leaders then inspect the guard of honor. Sultan Qabas then greets senior officials present to meet him. At 0905 GMT the two leaders and other officials proceed to the reception hall to talk and take drinks. At 0916 GMT the two leaders leave the hall and Sultan Qabus departs in a motorcade for his place of residence. At 0920 GMT live transmission stops. The link-up remains and musical and cultural programs are carried.

At 1027 GMT the plane of Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-Aziz al-Sa'ud touches down at Kuwait airport. At 1031 GMT the king steps down the stairs of the plane as a 21-gun salute is heard. The amir of Kuwait embraces his guest and they then proceed to the podium as the band plays the national anthems of the two countries. At 1034 GMT the two leaders proceed to inspect the guard of honor. At 1035 GMT they proceed to a long queue of officials to shake hands with them, after which they enter the reception hall followed by other officials. There they are seated and seen talking and taking drinks. At 1049 GMT the two leaders leave the reception hall and King Fahd is seen departing by motorcade for his place of residence. The announcer says that the amir of Kuwait accompanies the King Fahd to his place of residence. The motorcade of the two leaders is seen passing through the streets of Kuwait, while a helicopter is seen overflying the area. At 1108 GMT the Saudi King and the amir of Kuwait arrive at the residence of King Fahd.

At 1111 GMT the announcer says that the live transmission thus ends. All stations are then observed to return to normal programming.

Al-Sabah Welcomes GCC

LD271406 Kuwait KUNA in English 1129 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Excerpts] Kuwait, Nov 27 (KUNA) - The GCC's Supreme Council meets Tuesday evening when heads of state of the six member-states begin three days of summit talks.

Throughout the morning, the five visiting leaders of the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia arrived at Kuwait airport to join their host H.H. The Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Tight security was in evidence around the conference center and the heads of states' motorcades were heavily guarded as they drove individually to the newly-completed hall on the seafront southeast of Kuwait city along streets lined with flag-waving schoolchildren.

In a welcoming statement to the five heads of state Monday, Kuwait's crown prince and prime minister said the peoples of the area were placing great hopes on the summit, the fifth since the council was formed in 1981.

The council's achievements since then bore witness to the sincerity of the region's leaders in their endeavors to coordinate contin-

ual development while avoiding the mistakes made in past attempts to plan joint action, he said.

The six leaders will discuss a series of political issues topped by the Iraq-Iran war, according to Kuwait's Deputy Premier Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh al-Sabah al-Ahmad at a pre-summit press conference here Monday.

He said the GCC would not hesitate to reactivate efforts to mediate an end to the war if there were any new signs that this could be successful.

Shaykh al-Sabah praised Baghdad's attitude to earlier peace efforts, describing Iraq as "responsive" and expressing hope that Iran would follow suit.

He said the GCC states had shown patience in their response to successive attempts to drag them into the war, notably last summer's attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf.

By showing self-restraint, the GCC members were expressing their conviction that it was vitally important not to internationalize the conflict, he said reiterating the Council's stand against foreign intervention in the waterway.

Reaffirming the GCC's commitment to self-reliance in security and defense, Shaykh al-Sabah said military matters were likely to figure prominently in the talks.

Ministers from member states had drawn up a working paper in the Saudi town of Abha in September, and the Council's armies have conducted two rounds of joint exercises.

Shaykh al-Sabah stressed however that security cooperation between the six would not entail involvement in the internal affairs of any member-state.

On inter-Arab affairs, the GCC was seriously concerned about the extent of rifts between Arab states, the minister said, reiterating that the Council as a political and economic grouping could and would continue to do its utmost to resolve differences.

He also clarified the GCC's stance on a number of specific issues which were reportedly to be dealt with at the summit.

The subject of Egypt's reinstatement to the Arab League would have to be discussed by an Arab summit, he said. While indicating support for the principle of Egypt's return to Arab ranks, he said that the GCC alone could not decide on this issue, as it was an Arab summit that had originally expelled the country from the Arab League in 1979 after its unilateral accord with Israel.

Shaykh al-Sabah also expressed support for the Palestine National Council meeting currently underway in Amman, describing it as legitimate.

But it was premature for the GCC to take a stand on the proposed Jordanian-Palestinian initiative called for by Jordan's King Husayn, because the Palestinians themselves had not finished debating the issue, he said.

The GCC would do its utmost to mend strained relations between the PLO and Syria, he added, and to ensure that ties between the two did not deteriorate further.

Shaykh al-Sabah quashed reports that the GCC summit would discuss establishing relations between member states and the Soviet Union.

Kuwait is the only one of the six to maintain full ties with Moscow. But the minister said but "no state can be compelled to do what Kuwait has done regarding its relations with other countries."

He indicated however, that in general, the GCC would pursue a uniform foreign policy, and reiterated its support for the non-aligned movement.

The summit would also deal with economic issues notably regarding the oil market and the series of joint economic measures agreed upon by the council, he said.

Bahraini Amir Comments

GF280536 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 28 Nov 84 pp 1, 2

[Terence Kennedy report in Kuwait]

[Excerpts] The six leaders of the world's youngest but potentially most influential power bloc sat down to three daysof weighty discussions last night.

The colourful opening of the fifth GCC summit in Kuwait's Hyatt Regency conference centre took place under the glare of television lights and a large invited group of diplomats and international newsmen.

Each of the leaders with their delegations from Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the UAE and Oman was welcomed by this year's host, the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, behind rigorous security which sealed the centre from the outside world.

Accompanying HH the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al Khalifah on his flight was a high-powered delegation which included the ministers of foreign affairs, interior and commerce, along with top advisors and officials.

Last night's opening is the only aspect of the three-day summit to be conducted openly for the benefit of the 350 media representatives invited to cover the event.

On his arrival in Kuwait HH the Amir of Bahrain spoke of the role of the GCC and how it should tackle the problems facing the Arab world.

"It has become a source of confidence, security and stability to our people, who look forward to a prosperous future through GCC accomplishments," said HH the Amir.

He added that the fifth summit came at 'a critical time', with the Iran-Iraq war continuing to claim lives.

"This conflict and tension between some other Arab countries had diverted attention from our common enemy, Israel, which has continued with its aggressive policy," he said.

"The GCC aims to iron out Arab differences, build bridges of confidence and heal the present rift which threatens us all."

During the length of the conference Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa al Khalifah, the crown prince, will stand in for the amir.

Shaykh Sabah Press Conference

GF271817 Kuwait Voice of Cooperation Council in Arabic 1040 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Press conference held by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign and information minister, at the Hilton Hotel in Kuwait on 26 November — recorded]

[Excerpts] [name indistinct] of Qatar Radio. Your Excellency, it has been reported that the Gulf countries have prepared a GCC plan on the Iraqi-Iranian war. Can you give us the outlines of this plan, and has Tehran shown a willingness to respond positively, particularly as it had adopted a hardline stand toward all other initiatives and plans?

[Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah] I thank the Qatari Radio correspondent. I wish to say that since the inception of the GCC and since the outbreak of the war the GCC states — and I have said this in my statement — have been working hard in this regard in order to end the war. I want to say that there is no specific initiative but there is great interest in the matter. If circumstances help us and if the parties concerned accept such an initiative then the GCC will be the first to take an initiative in finding any solution to end the war — a war that not only harms the interests of the two countries but also harms the entire region and undermines world peace. Thank you.

[Ziyad (surname indistinct)] Ziyad [name indistinct] from Omani television, Mr Minister, the GCC countries have supported and continue to support the Palestinian people and the restoration of their legitimate and inalienable rights. What has happened recently among the members of the PNC adds further division to the Arab ranks. What will the stand of the GCC be on healing the rift, and will contacts be made or will a delegation be sent to reconcile the parties concerned, especially as the PNC is convening almost during the same period as the GCC summit? Thank you.

[Shaykh Sabah] I thank the Omani television correspondent. I wish to say that the Palestinians are a people, and just as we do not accept that anyone interferes in our affairs, equally the Palestinian people do not accept that anyone interferes in their affairs. The PNC has held a legal meeting in Amman and elected a chairman. My government and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — according to what I have heard on the Saudi radio — have recognized the new chairman of the PNC. This is their affair, and on this premise we do not question the legality of the meeting, we do not object to it — it is a Palestinian affair. All that I hope is that this matter will not aggravate divisions among Palestinian brothers but instead will be the right course for the Palestinian question. Thank you.

[Bassam Mansur] Bassam Mansur from *KULL AL-'ARAB* magazine. Mr Minister, [words indistinct] steps by Gulf countries regarding the Gulf war. However, it is rare that someone talks about the offers made in such initiatives. Can you give us an idea on these offers?

[Shaykh Sabah] First I have told the ministry under secretary that I hope that questions will not be repeated. This question was asked by the representative of Qatar [Radio], and I said to him there is no initiative, but that there is interest on all levels — the ministerial council and the Supreme Council, which represents our leaders — to end the war. The matter depends on the agreement of the parties concerned. If there is a positive response on the part of the parties concerned, then we will have a role to play in this matter, God willing.

[Nabil Ya'qub al-Hamar] Nabil al-Hamar, director of WAKH. [words indistinct] several meetings of defense ministers of GCC states have been held. During the past 2 years joint exercises were held by the armies of the GCC countries. An intention or a trend to form a unified military command for the GCC states has recently crystallized. Is this true? Is there a trend to set up a so-called rapid deployment force?

[Shaykh Sabah] Thank you, WAKH. With regard to this matter we are paying attention to the military aspect to defend our region, particularly against the threats we are facing. Therefore we had to hold these joint exercises among the brothers in the armies of the region. The [summit] agenda includes the discussion of some kind of coordination whereby the Qatari, Bahraini, Omani, Saudi, and Kuwaiti armies and all the armies of the region will be under one umbrella when any GCC country is subject to an external threat. Here I wish to emphasize an essential point: When I refer to the defense of the region against outside [threats], this has nothing to do what is happening inside the country — it is devoted to the defense of the [GCC] states against external aggression. Thank you.

[Oliver (?Delan)] Oliver (?Delan) from Radio France Internationale. Mr Minister, one reads in the newspapers that GCC countries will follow Kuwait's example in making a decision on the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. I believe that you [words indistinct] latest decision. Does this topic appear on the agenda of today's conference? [question posed in French]

[Shaykh Sabah] It is true that Kuwait maintains relations with all countries of the Eastern bloc. However, there is nothing on our agenda that makes it mandatory for any GCC member-state to adopt the same decision as Kuwait with regard to relations with other countries.

[Simon (?Mani)] Simon (?Mani) from (*FREEPACIA*) magazine. Mr Minister, Kuwait has (?tried) more than once to join a military alliance of the GCC countries. What is your view in this

regard? The Western press reported that the military exercises which Kuwait held with Gulf countries mean that Kuwait is moving in that direction. What are the [words indistinct] which Kuwait is making in this regard?

[Shaykh Sabah] Thank you, Simon, for your question. I assure you that what exists among the GCC countries is greater than an alliance. Alliances are between dissimilar countries, but we are states that trust each other. We call what we are doing military coordination among the area countries. Our policy is that the defense of the region does not come from outside but is the responsibility of the countries of the region. We are not influenced by what is written in the Western press as much as we are influenced by ourselves and our determination to continue in this policy. God willing, this topic will be discussed by the forthcoming summit: It is not the alliance that will be discussed, because the alliance already exists — the alliance is a family alliance, it is the heritage and history of the GCC countries. There is military coordination to defend the area countries and to block the loopholes — it is said that the area countries cannot defend themselves. I want to emphasize that we are capable of defending ourselves, thanks to the will of our youth and the will of our leaders. We shall continue in this course. Thank you.

['Abd al-Hay al-Wazar] 'Abd al-Hay al-Wazar from the Qatari newspaper *AL-'ARAB*. Mr Minister, the GCC countries have more than once brought about a reconciliation between Syria and the PLO. Now following the convening of the PNC session in Amman, it appears that relations between Syria and the PLO have further deteriorated. Can we expect a joint effort by the Gulf countries to bring about a relaxation in Syrian-Palestinian relations?

[Shaykh Sabah] We must not say that the road between Syria and the Palestinians has completely closed. I have already said that the PNC has held a legal meeting and a quorum was obtained. We have welcomed the meeting and welcomed the new PNC chairman. With regard to Syria and the Palestinians, we shall try as much as we can. As I have said, the GCC is acceptable to all the parties who are willing to accept its mediation in this matter. We shall try as much as we can to prevent differences from becoming worse than estrangement and causing a split.

[Name indistinct] of Paris *LIBERATION*. [question indistinct]

[Shaykh Sabah] First of all, I wish to affirm that it is true that Iraq is always asking for a solution to the war. I have said in the statement which I read to you that with regard to which party started the war we are not a court to decide who started the war. It is left to history to judge who began the war. What concerns us is that the war stops. When the war stops it will be made clear who started the war. Therefore, I hope you will excuse me from saying now who started the war. Thank you.

[Ahmad Jasim Al-Hamar] Ahmad Jasim al-Hamar, deputy director of QNA. Your excellency, first of all I would like my colleagues the journalists to thank the Kuwaiti Ministry of Information for the facilities it has extended to the journalists who are in Kuwait to cover the GCC summit. My question is within the framework of the GCC's interest in Arab affairs: During the PNC meetings, King Husayn has proposed a plan for a dialogue, or an initiative, in which the Palestinian and Jordanian sides join in an attempt to solve some Palestinian issues. What is the GCC view on this matter? Another question: During the ministerial council meetings the development plans for the GCC states were discussed. What are the major aspects of these development plans? Thank you.

[Shaykh Sabah] I thank the Qatari representative. I am glad that all the means of comfort and facilities have been extended to you in our country, Kuwait. With regard to King Husayn's initiative, it was made at the PNC. This matter concerns the Palestinians: If they want to accept it then this is their affair. It will be accepted or rejected, and when it is referred to a full Arab summit, and the GCC — which is part of the Arab world — we will then take a stand on this matter. However, now it is difficult to give any answer to this initiative before it is studied by the Palestinians themselves.

[Sulayman Nasir] Sulayman Nasir from the Saudi newspaper *AL-RIYAD*. Has Oman or Bahrain asked for military aid, particularly since the Abha meetings approved the principle of aid to Oman and Bahrain? The other part of the question is: What significance do Aden and Sanaa hold for you, especially [word indistinct] the economic installations for the Sanaa port project?

[Shaykh Sabah] Thank you brother. The GCC decided last year, indeed 2 years ago during the Bahrain summit conference, that there would be financial aid to brothers in Aden [as heard] and Bahrain and [words indistinct] reason for this aid. As for the Aden and Sanaa issue, we believe it is an extension of the GCC — a security and economic extension. Although they are not part of the GCC, they are an extension of the GCC. That is why we made efforts with regard to Aden port and the earthquakes which took place in Sanaa 2 years ago. Now everything is proceeding in the right direction [words indistinct].

[Nasri Nassar] Nasri Nassar from the BBC in London. Your Excellency, please allow me to ask you a somewhat frank question. Through exploring the stance of Iran toward the Gulf efforts, do you believe that Iran regards the Gulf countries an indirect side in the war? Can this explain Iran's rejection so far of Gulf mediation efforts? To what extent militarily or politically can the Gulf countries avoid playing a direct role in the war? Or can the war continue until it comes to an end no matter what the result? Thank you.

[Shaykh Sabah] First, we have to comprehend this subject. We are not partners in this war. We will never be partners in it. At the same time, we are trying as much as we can through diplomatic channels to nail down a solution to this war. As for Iran regarding whether we are in a state of war or not, we say that we are not a party to the dispute or the war. Thus, when our ships were hit, we made a decision, like countries that are not within the range of military operations or the war region between Iraq and Iran, to resort to the United Nations.

As for ending the war, I hope that we, the nonaligned countries, the Islamic countries, and the United Nations will be successful in reaching a formula that will help us to end this war. Nobody actually benefits from this war in as much as it weakens the region and weakens the Arab countries. It also weakens countries

of the nonaligned movement. Some countries may benefit from this war. But such countries that do benefit from this war will also one day suffer from it.

1st Session Ends
LD271846 Kuwait KUNA in English 1620 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 27 (KUNA) -- The first session of the GCC Supreme Council wound up Wednesday [as received] evening after an introductory speech by h.h. the amir and a short closed-door session of the heads of state of the six member-countries.

GCC Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Ibrahim al-Subhi told KUNA that GCC leaders heard a report presented by Secretary-General 'Abdallah Bishara, who highlighted the activities and achievements of the council over the past year.

The report covered the military, political and economic fields as well as overall cooperation between the GCC states.

Meanwhile, official sources told KUNA that the leaders endorsed the report and would begin Wednesday discussing the summit's military, political and economic agenda items.

The six heads of state later attended a dinner banquet hosted by h.h. the amir in honour of the visiting leaders, along with their accompanying delegations.

The banquet was also attended by h.h. the crown prince and prime minister, the National Assembly speaker and a number of ministers, shaykhs, senior officials and prominent guests.

2d Session Begins
LD280854 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0835 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Text] KUNA 23. Kuwait 28.11: The Higher Council of the Arab Gulf States Cooperation Council resumed its work in the Hyatt Regency Hotel here at approximately 1120 this morning. In the course of its second working session, the Council will adopt its agenda and begin its debates.

Kuwait 1981 Figures on Exports to GCC Released
GF271253 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 26 Nov 84 p 11

[Excerpt] Kuwait's overall exports to other GCC member-states were over KD [Kuwaiti Dinars] 228 million in 1981 compared to 5.3 millions 17 years ago, according to official statistics released yesterday.

And Kuwait's commodity imports from its five GCC counterparts moved from KD 0.2 million in 1965 to 23.3 million in 1980 but dropped to KD 16.2 million in 1981.

Saudi Arabia, according to those statistics was the major exporter to Kuwait with the UAE second. Kuwait's total imports from the five GCC countries increased 8.9 fold during the period 1965-1981.

While Kuwait's total imports from Arab League member-states increased six fold, imports from foreign countries increased 14.9 fold, the statistics showed.

Kuwait's imports from foreign countries estimated at 93.6 percent of its overall imports to 1965 continued to increase until they reached 96.6 percent in 1981, indicating less dependence on GCC and other Arab markets, the statistical report added.

Kuwait's balance of trade with other GCC states showed a surplus throughout the past years while the trade balance with Saudi Arabia and the UAE indicates a continued export of Kuwaiti products to the two states.

The report also dealt with the issue of transit trade and analysed trade figures for both imports and exports up to the year ending December 1981.

UAE

KHALEEJ TIMES on U.S.-Iraq Resumption of Ties
GF281236 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 28 Nov 84 p 6

[Text] The decision by Iraq to resume diplomatic relations with the U.S. can be seen as a mirror image of Egypt's restoration of ties with the Soviet Union earlier in the year, and both as part of an attempt by the Arab world to maintain a balanced relationship with the superpowers to serve Arab interests. In the case of Iraq, it marks the culmination of a long process of normalisation between it and the U.S. since ties were severed in protest against American support for the Israeli aggressors in the 1967 war. Despite the diplomatic rupture, trade and other economic contacts have been growing and the U.S. interests section in Baghdad was larger than most of the embassies in the city. However, the resumption of diplomatic ties at this time, following the visit to Washington of Iraqi Foreign minister Tariq 'Aziz, will be scrutinised for its political implications.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn had always maintained that "when America's relationship with the Arabs becomes positive and its views on our rights become just, we might restore our diplomatic relations with it." The dominant concern of all Arabs is undoubtedly Palestine, and Baghdad apparently feels that it can have greater leverage against Israel by cementing ties with Washington.

Unfortunately there is little evidence so far that the U.S. is prepared to adopt a more even-handed approach towards the Middle East. It has recently entered into a strategic pact with the Zionist entity, and a senior Reagan administration official said yesterday that restoration of relations with Baghdad does not imply a change in America's ties with Israel which he said were stronger than ever. Nor is Iraq likely to change its policy on the question.

The U.S. has also given little evidence of its willingness to restrain Israel in its aggression even against Iraq. It has recently again refrained from condemning Israel for its attack on the Iraqi nuclear plant in 1981 in which American-built aircraft were used. It has also refused to offer adequate assurances against

Israeli attack on the proposed Iraqi pipeline to Jordan, as a result of which the project has apparently been shelved.

Under the circumstances the restoration of diplomatic ties is unlikely to bring any immediate breakthrough on the Middle Eastern question or help in stopping the Iran-Iraq war.

But the restoration of diplomatic relations by both Iraq and Egypt with the two superpowers can be welcomed to the extent that it serves the cause of peace and justice in the Middle East.

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia Denies PRAVDA Report on U.S. Bases

LD281155 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1120 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Text] The Soviet TASS agency is quoting an article in the Soviet paper *PRAVDA* published yesterday morning, regarding American military bases abroad. A responsible source in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia says that the *PRAVDA* report, which states that Washington has concluded bilateral agreements with certain states — including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — whereby the American Armed Forces secured the use of military bases of these countries, is devoid of any truth; furthermore, there is no military base in Saudi Arabia for any other state in the world.

Mubarak Denies Intention of Attacking Libya

NC281300 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received the credentials of seven new ambassadors at the Republican Palace in Al-Qubbah today. They are the ambassadors of Switzerland, the Sultanate of Oman, Turkey, the Vatican, Ethiopia, Poland, and Jordan. Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; Presidential Secretary Ra'uf As'ad; Chief Chamberlain Sa'id Hamzah; and Chief Aide-de-Camp Staff Maj Gen Hasan al-Akhras attended the presentation ceremony.

Answering questions from foreign correspondents about Libya's announcement 2 days ago that Egypt has increased its forces on the two countries' border, President Mubarak said: Libya can say whatever it wants. We have no intention or launching any attack. We have not sent any additional forces. However, we are on our guard and we are taking precautions against any event at any time.

Asked about the Libyan leaders' oral threats and whether these threats are similar to the threats they address to the world leaders, President Mubarak said: I am not afraid of these threats. I know exactly what they mean.

President Mubarak also denied that security precautions are being applied at the Presidential Palace.

Foreign Ministry on Somali Plane Hijacking

NC271927 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] An official source at the Foreign Ministry has stated that the ministry welcomes the end of the Somali plane hijacking without bloodshed. Egyptian diplomacy participated, through the contacts held with Ethiopia and Somalia, in reaching this satisfactory end to the crisis, he added. The source said that Egypt vehemently condemns terrorism in all its forms. Terrorism, he said, is one of the dangerous phenomena in the international scene; it jeopardizes innocent lives for the sake of achieving illegitimate and inhuman ends.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Muhsin Fahmi, assistant foreign minister, today telephoned Egypt's ambassador in Ethiopia and asked him to convey the Egyptian Government's appreciation for the role played by the Ethiopian Government in contacting the hijackers and bringing about a peaceful end to the incident. The assistant foreign minister also contacted Ahmad Khalid Hamdi, Egypt's economic adviser in Somalia, who was among the passengers on the hijacked plane, and congratulated him on his release.

Further on Visit of Hungary's Jozsef Marjai

Industry Minister Receives Marjai

NC271624 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 27 Nov (MENA) — Industry Minister Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab today received Jozsef Marjai, deputy chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers for economic affairs, who is presently visiting Cairo, and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, they explored potential fields of cooperation in industry, particularly in chemical industries, iron and steel, and mining. In addition, they discussed cooperation in combating the pollution caused by new factories and reducing pollution in existing factories. The two sides also discussed cooperation in agricultural mechanization and insecticides.

The Hungarian official invited the industry minister to visit Hungary.

Ghali Meets With Marjai

NC272158 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today met with Jozsef Marjai, deputy chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers for economic affairs, who is currently visiting Cairo. During their meeting, Dr Ghali praised the relations between Egypt and Hungary and stressed Egypt's desire to promote these relations in every domain.

The Hungarian official stated that Egypt and Hungary are fully in agreement over the need to promote their relations in all fields, particularly in the economic sphere because of its importance.

Further on Visit of Iraqi Trade Minister

'Ali Meets Iraqi Minister

NC271543 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today received Iraqi Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali. During the meeting, they discussed ways to promote the various forms of cooperation between the two brotherly countries and reviewed the $100 million trade agreement between Egypt and Iraq.

Visit Ends, Protocol Signed

NC271744 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 27 Nov (MENA) — Iraqi Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali left Cairo for home this evening following a 3-day visit during which he met with President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, and Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id.

Upon leaving Cairo airport, the Iraqi minister said that his talks in Cairo were extremely successful. He said that a protocol was signed to increase the trade exchanged between Egypt and Iraq to 100 million Egyptian pounds. He said that this is a good start for further future cooperation. Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id, who said goodbye to the Iraqi guest, said that the talks dealt with ways to boost bilateral trade exchange and to organize remittances of Egyptians working in Iraq.

Jordanian Envoy Arrives With Message From Husayn

NC271635 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 27 Nov (MENA) — Jordan's new ambassador to Egypt Husayn Hammami arrived in Cairo this afternoon. He said that he is carrying a message from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother President Husni Mubarak. He said that he feels very happy about his appointment in this post as an ambassador for his country in the Arab Republic of Egypt. He said that the restoration of relations between Egypt and Jordan will give strong momentum to serving the Palestinian cause and achieving the Arab nation's desired goals.

Restoration of U.S.-Iraqi Relations Viewed

Cairo on Renewed Relations

NC271538 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "The Resumption of Diplomatic Relations Between Washington and Baghdad and Its Impact on the Gulf War and the Middle East Problem"]

[Text] After a 17-year break, Iraq and the United States yesterday agreed to restore diplomatic relations. This announcement was made following a meeting between Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and U.S. President Ronald Reagan. Earlier, there had been similar meetings with U.S. Vice President George Bush and Secretary of State George Shultz.

We welcome this restoration of relations, which is compatible with Egypt's eagerness to maintain balanced relations with the superpowers. Egypt favors establishing channels of communication between the Arab countries and the rest of the world, especially those countries that influence the course of events worldwide.

Still, the restoration of U.S.-Iraqi relations should be viewed from another angle; namely, its favorable impact on the Arab-Israeli dispute and the stalemated Iraq-Iran war — the war which, in its 5th year, has not shown any sign of abating because of Iranian intransigence and its rejection of international mediation.

Concerning the Arab-Israeli dispute, the resumption of relations means that Iraq will waste no time in bolstering Arab efforts aimed at imparting momentum to the peace process and achieving a just and durable resolution of the Middle East problem. These efforts involve direct contacts with all the parties concerned, including certainly, the United States. As a matter of fact, such contacts were made during the talks between Tariq 'Aziz and senior U.S. officials. The Middle East problem was at the top of the agenda.

Concerning the Gulf war, there is no doubt that the restoration of relations between Washington and Baghdad will have an immediate impact. To elaborate on this, we would say that the resumption of Iraqi-U.S. relations will make the relationship between Iraq and the superpowers evenhanded — Iraq has signed a friendship and cooperation treaty with Moscow.

Furthermore, Iran will now understand that it will not be allowed to achieve military victory over Iraq — such a victory was what Iran was seeking through repeated attacks on Iraq.

This underlines the importance of restoring relations between Washington and Baghdad. The decision to restore these relations came as Iranian Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani announced that Iran intends to launch a new comprehensive assault on Iraq to end the war.

Here we have to stress one point: In analyzing the decision to restore relations, we never meant to give the impression that Washington would side with Iraq in its war against Iran. What will happen is that the superpowers' relaxed attitude toward the Gulf war will come to an end — the Gulf area is one of strategic importance to both the superpowers and the whole world.

It is not a coincidence that the decision made by Baghdad and Washington to restore diplomatic relations came as the GCC summit is starting its meetings in Kuwait. This conference will also focus on the Gulf war, which directly affects all its members.

Welcoming the restoration of relations between Iraq and the United States, which turns a new leaf in their bilateral relations, we would like to point out that Washington knows well the reason why Iraq decided to sever relations with the United States in 1967 — the total U.S. bias toward Israel. Will this restoration make Washington think about starting to establish balanced relations between the Arabs and Israel, particularly after President Reagan was reelected and in the light of recent international nd regional developments?

AL-AHRAM on Restored Relations

NC280825 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 28 Nov 84

[From the press review]

[Text] *AL-AHRAM* comments on the decision of the United States and Iraq to resume full diplomatic relations following a 17-year break, describing it as wise, logical, and timely, but perhaps a bit late.

The newspaper notes it was illogical for Iraq to maintain full diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and other East bloc countries without having such relations with the United States. It also was illogical for Iraqi-U.S. economic, cultural, and trade relations to develop to their present level while diplomatic relations were severed.

Referring to the U.S. Administration's assertion that the restoration of full diplomatic relations with Iraq will not affect its neutral stand on the Iraqi-Iranian war, *AL-AHRAM* says: We are confident that the United States will continue to follow a neutral policy toward the two warring Islamic nations. We also hope the U.S. policy will adhere to the same degree of neutrality in its dealing with the Arab states and with Israel.

Communique on 26-27 Nov War Activities

JN271719 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Communique No 1,663 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 27 November 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With high spirits and self-confidence, our valiant Armed Forces continue to deal successive blows to the criminal Iranian enemy forces, expressing their high preparedness to destroy any foolish attempt by the regime of charlatanism in Iran. The results of activities for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Using artillery and mortars, our forward units pounded the enemy positions and weapons emplacements in the operational sector east of Basra, killing three, wounding others, inflicting losses in equipment, and destroying one machine gun position with its occupants and one observation post. Columns of smoke were seen billowing over other positions.

2. Our forward units engaged the enemy observation posts and a number of enemy troops and vehicles in the Maysan sector with all types of weapons, killing five, wounding others, and destroying two observation posts and one vehicle. Those manning the two observation posts were killed.

3. A group of our brave fighters directed their fire toward the enemy positions in the northern sector of the operational threater, inflicting losses in men and equipment and destroying four infantry positions and one hardware dump. Those in the infantry positions were killed. The enemy was seen evacuating its losses.

4. One of our brave artillery units opened concentrated fire on selected enemy positions in the central sector of the operational threater, scoring effective hits.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 November 1984

Zambian Defense Minister Arrives in Baghdad

JN280732 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA) — Zambian Defense Minister Clement Mwanashiku arrived here early this morning with a written message to President Saddam Husayn from Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda dealing with bilateral relations.

The Zambian minister said that during his visit to Iraq he will hold talks with Iraqi officials on strengthening bilateral cooperation in all fields. He added: My visit to Iraq at this time means that Zambia supports Iraq in its defensive war. However, Zambia hopes that this war will end as soon as possible. He said that Zambia has exerted much effort to end the Iraqi-Iranian war through the Good Offices Committee stemming from the Nonaligned Movement.

The Zambian minister and the delegation accompanying him were welcomed by Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister; the chief of staff; and senior Armed Forces officers.

Peruvian Socialist Party Leader Arrives on Visit

JN281033 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA) — General Leonidas Rodriguez Figueroa, leader of the Peruvian Revolutionary Socialist Party, arrived in Baghdad at dawn today on a visit to Iraq that will last several days. The Peruvian official will hold talks with officials in the Foreign Relations Office of the Ba'th Party National Command on strengthening relations between the two parties.

Ba'th Officials, Delegation Return From Romania

JN271255 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA) — 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Ghafur, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, and the party delegation accompanying him returned to Baghdad today after participating in the Romanian Communist Party's 13th Congress which ended in Bucharest last Sunday.

'Abd al-Ghafur said that the delegation held a series of meetings with members of the party's Politbureau and Central Committee, as well as with the delegations from the friendly states participating in the congress. The talks during these meetings dealt with the means of strengthening the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Ba'th Party and the parties in these states. He added that the Iraqi delegation explained the dimensions of the continuation of the Iranian aggression on Iraq, Iraq's peaceful stands and initiatives for ending the war, and the Iranian regime's crime of killing a number of Iraqi POW's.

Trade Minister Returns From Cairo Visit

JN272044 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA) — Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister, returned here tonight following a visit of several days to Egypt.

Bomb Explosion Near PLO Office Reported

NC272314 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
2306 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] An Interior Ministry official spokesman has stated the following: At 2305 on Tuesday, 27 November 1984, a bomb that was left in a yard near the PLO office in Jabal al-Husayn blew up, creating a hole about 20 cm deep. There were no casualties or damage, but a few glass panes were shattered. The public security forces immediately began investigations.

UN Envoy Addresses General Assembly Session

JN271418 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] United Nations — The UN General Assembly held a special session last night to discuss the Middle East problem. In a statement he made before the General Assembly, Khalid al-Madadihah, head of the Political Department at the Foreign Ministry and member of the Jordanian delegation to the current session of the General Assembly, called for considering the principle of refraining from the use of force in relations between countries as one of the prominent principles of the United Nations. He pointed out that this was one of the main principles established by the United Nations in organizing relations among countries. He asserted that Israel's view is contrary to this, because it believes that its peace and security can be achieved only through resorting to force.

In the session in which the General Assembly listened to three statements by the representatives of Jordan, Syria, and Israel, Khalid al-Madadihah added: In the process to achieve a solution to the Middle East problem, we must realize a number of facts. Al-Madadihah asserted that one of the most important is that security guarantees should be backed by the international body in order for them to succeed. He also asserted that the solution to the Middle East problem should be comprehensive. He reiterated that Israel should acknowledge that there will be no successful peace process without the participation of the Palestinian people, and that Israel should agree that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people as long as there is Palestinian, Arab, and international consensus on this.

Swiss Minister Departs Amman After Trade Talks

JN271706 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Dr Kirt Fulgler, vice president of the Swiss Confederation and chief of the Department of Public Economy, left Amman today after a 2-day visit to Jordan.

During his visit, he met with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan to review ways of promoting bilateral economic cooperation and of creating a kind of trade balance between the two countries.

Fulgler and his delegation also met with Minister of Industry and Trade Dr Jawad al-'Anani and senior ministry officials to review economic and trade relations between the two countries and ways of developing trade cooperation and exchange.

The two sides also discussed the loan that the Swiss Government has decided to extend to Jordan to finance a number of development projects.

The two sides exchanged views about increasing Jordanian exports to Switzerland, especially potash and some consumer goods such as leather, carpets, and fresh vegetables.

The Swiss guest and his delegation were seen off at the airport by the director of economic cooperation at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Swiss ambassador in Amman, and a Foreign Ministry official.

Briefs

Four Ambassadors Present Credentials — His Majesty King Husayn today received the credentials of four new ambassadors accredited to the Royal Hashemite Court. He respectively received the credentials of UK Ambassador Arthur John Coles, Egyptian Ambassador Ihab Sa'id Wahbah, Hungarian Ambassador Zoltan Szephelyi, and Cuban Ambassador Hector Argiles Perez. [Excerpt] [*Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Nov JN*]

AFP: Islamic Jihad Denies Plot Against Rome Embassy
NC281132 Paris AFP in English 1113 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Text] Beirut, Nov 28 (AFP) — The Islamic Jihad terrorist group today denied any involvement in an alleged Arab plot revealed by Italy to blow up the U.S. Embassy in Rome and hinted that Italy itself might suffer a backlash. The denial followed yesterday's announcement of the arrest by Italian police of seven Lebanese nationals believed to have been planning a suicide truck-bomb attack on the U.S. Embassy.

Police in Rome said the seven were thought to be members of Islamic Jihad — a group which has claimed several anti-American attacks in recent years.

In a telephone call today to a foreign news agency in Beirut, a man claiming to speak for Islamic Jihad's "Beirut Command" said his organisation had nothing to do with any planned attack in Rome.

"When we decide to undertake a suicide operation, we entrust it to one single person", said the caller, who described the Italian Government's charges as slanderous. He said Rome must take "full responsibility for having announced the arrest of Mujahidin of our organisation although it (Italy) was not a target for our operations".

A second caller to the same news agency later advised Italy "to keep out of things which don't concern it, if it doesn't want to be attacked like others have been".

"We used to think Italians were on the side of the underprivileged, and for this reason we have spared them in our attacks in Lebanon and elsewhere up to now. Now however, the Italian Government has begun to follow in the steps of U.S. colonialism and is protecting its interests," the caller charged.

Briefs

Indian Ambassador Departs — The Indian ambassador to Lebanon left Beirut for good at noon today at the end of his tour in Beirut. He was seen off by 'Abd al-Majid Qasir, assistant director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and the Indian Embassy staff. [*Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Nov 84 NC*]

Continued Coverage of French President's Visit

Mitterrand Sees 'Better' Relations

NC271723 Paris AFP in English 1710 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Excerpts] Damascus, Nov 27 (AFP) — French President Francois Mitterrand said here today that his meetings with President Hafiz al-Asad during his current visit here "lead me to think that France's situation in Syria will be better than it was before".

He made the remarks during a reception at the French Embassy for French citizens living in Syria. He was due to have a second round of talks with President al-Asad later today.

President Mitterrand, the first French head of state to make an official visit to Syria since its independence in 1943, said today: "I think that this trip will be useful, that is its purpose."

"We have had some very difficult moments, everyone knows that," he added, but relations had continued between the two states "despite the contradictions."

On the Arab-Israeli problem, he said that "France's role is not to make a choice, but to remain the friend of our friends."

French sources said here today that it had emerged in talks between the two leaders that Syria was not willing to go out of its way to make it easy for Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon.

Both Syrian and French sources said the Iran-Iraq war, rather than Arab-Israeli questions, was likely to dominate today's meeting between the two leaders.

Earlier today, Mr. Mitterrand, who arrived here yesterday for a 48-hour stay, visited the 1,700-year-old Roman ruins of Palmyra.

Al-Asad, Mitterrand Resume Talks

JN271750 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and French President Francois Mitterrand have resumed the talks they began yesterday. They held a closed meeting at the Presidential Palace at 1730 today. The agenda includes topics pertaining to the situation and developments in the Middle East region, bilateral relations, and the international situation.

Expanded Session Held

JN272125 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and President Francois Mitterrand held an expanded session at 2115 today. The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, prime minister; Dr Kamal Sharaf, minister of state for planning affairs; Dr Salim Yasin, minister of economy and foreign trade; Dr Najah al-'Attar, minister of culture; Faruq al-Shar', minister of foreign affairs; 'Isam al-Na'ib, assistant foreign minister; Sulayman Haddad, director of the European Department at the Foreign Ministry; and Yusuf Shakkur, Syrian ambassador in Paris.

On the French side the meeting was attended by Claude Cheysson, minister of external relations; Jack Lang, minister of culture; Francois (de Kosofer) from the presidential office; and Henri Servant, the French ambassador in Damascus; and the rest of the official French delegation.

The two sides discussed bilateral relations in this regard, President Hafiz al-Asad explained that he and President Mitterrand stressed the usefulness and importance of direct meetings. They also agreed to develop Syrian-French relations to serve the two peoples' mutual interests.

Further on Talks

JN272154 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Excerpts] Damascus — President Hafiz al-Asad and French President Francois Mitterrand resumed the talks they began yesterday by holding a closed meeting at the Presidential Palace in Al-Muhajirin at 1730 today. During this meeting, talks dealt with the main issues in the region, particularly those related to Lebanon, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the ways to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region, the Iraq-Iran war, and the situation in Europe and the world. The president reviewed the Lebanese developments and the efforts Syria is exerting to help the Lebanese president, the national unity government, and the fraternal Lebanese people get rid of the Israeli occupation and achieve national accord and unity of both land and people.

President Mitterrand described Syria's role in helping Lebanon as an effective and basic role.

President [al-Asad] reviewed the history and stages of the Arab-Israeli conflict and explained Israel's beliefs and expansionist schemes against the Arab territories at the expense of the Arab nation's rights. The president explained Syria's policy, which is aimed at establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region, adding that this policy links peace and the balance we are seeking to attain. The president explained Syria's position on the Iraq-Iran war and the efforts that Syria exerted at the beginning of war to stop it, curb it, and prevent its spread. He said: By exerting these efforts Syria proceeded from the real interests of our people in Iraq and the Iranian people.

President Mitterrand expressed great satisfaction with the president's clarification of issues of common interest, particularly those related to the situation in Lebanon. He also showed understanding of the Syrian viewpoints on the topics of discussion.

Upon discussing bilateral relations, the two presidents expressed their desire to develop these relations in accordance with the positive results of this visit.

At 2150 today, an expanded meeting was held under the chairmanship of the two presidents.

It was agreed to continue contacts between Syria and France for the sake of exchanging opinions, working for the establisment of peace in this region on the basis of justice, increasing cooperation in the eeconomic, cultural, and technical fields, and implementing joint ventures in these fields in accordance with the current protocols that will be signed by the concerned minsters at the end of President Mitterrand's visit to Syria.

Paris Reports on Talks

LD280045 Paris Domestic Service in French 2300 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] President Mitterrand today met several times with his Syrian counterpart, Hafiz al-Asad. The last round of talks was exceptionally long and lasted 4-1/2 hours. The two men discussed three main topics — the situation in Lebanon, the Israeli-Arab conflict, and the war between Iran and Iraq. At the end of these talks, Elysee spokesman Michel Vauzelle indicated that differences continued to exist between Paris and Damascus, but that the talks ought to open a new page in the relations between the two countries.

During the extended talks with several ministers, the two sides discussed the need to improve the teaching of French in Syria. France may also participate in the opening of a new TV channel in Damascus. On the economic plane, the two delegations agreed that the French share in Syrian trade should be increased.

Al-Shar', Cheysson Confer

JN271915 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Claude Cheysson, French external relations minister; (Bon Fause), head of the African and Middle East desk; and the technical and economic advisers at the French Foreign Ministry at 1730 today. The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Yusuf Shakhur, Syrian ambassador to France; Sulayman Haddad, head of the Western Europe desk; and Sadiq Sadiqni, head of the Economic Department at the Foreign Ministery.

The talks revolved around bilateral relations and the current situation in the region.

Damascus Reports Amman Bomb Explosion

JN280618 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Text] Amman — An urgent AFP dispatch last night says that a powerful explosion took place in the Jordanian capital, Amman. The explosion occured in the Jabal al-Husayn area of Amman, a short distance from where the divisionist 'Arafatist council is convening. AFP says that the Regency Hotel, where 'Arafat and most of his clique are residing, is near the area where the explosion took place. AFP did not report any further details.

Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives in Damascus

JN271914 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi arrived in Damascus this afternoon. Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh, the Algerian ambassador in Damascus, and the Algerian Embassy staff received him at Damascus International Airport. Syrian Ambassador to Algeria Salim Shayya arrived on the same plane.

Al-Asad Congratulates Romanian President Ceausescu

JN232113 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 23 Nov 84

["Text" of cable President Hafiz al-Asad sent to Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu — date not specified]

[Text] On the occasion of your reelection as secretary general of the Romanian Communist Party by the party's 16th congress, I am pleased to send to you, in my name and on behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, our hearfelt congratulations and wishes for success. I seize this opportunity to express my confidence that relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries will achieve further development and prosperity in the future for the mutual benefit of our peoples. I hope that you will accept my heartfelt wishes for your good health and happiness, and for further progress, prosperity, and accomplishments for the friendly Romanian people under your leadership.

Iraqi Opposition Front Raps Iraq-U.S. Relations

JN271318 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Damascus — The Democratic National and Patriotic Front [DNPF] Political Command in Iraq has issued a statement denouncing the Iraqi regime's agentry and the restoration of complete diplomatic relations with the U.S. imperialists in an attempt to implement its hostile plans.

The DNPF stressed that the fascist regime which oppressed the Iraqi people never did sever its economic and political relations with the United States. It said: On the contrary, this regime has promoted these relations through complete strategic coordination to crush the Iraqi nationalist movement and carry out plots against the Arab liberation movement's forces.

The statement points out that agent Saddam has served the United States through his declared agreement on the Reagan plan to liquidate the Palestine question by encouraging 'Arafat and his clique to resume his capitulationist and divisionist course against the Palestinian revolution, join the Camp David conspiracy, and restore relations with Husni Mubarak.

The DNPF denounced the Iraqi regime's move in restoring relations with the United States, saying that this move represents a serious new link in the series of the imperialist plots against the Iraqi people. The DNPF appealed to the masses to resume the struggle to liquidate the agent fascist regime and establish a

democratic national government. It also called on the Iraqi nationalist forces to close ranks to topple Saddam's agent regime and return the country to the fold of Arab and international liberation movements.

Press Discuss King Husayn's Initiative

JN240830 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 24 Nov 84

[From the press review]

[Text] On 'Arafat's divisionist PNC, *AL-THAWRAH*'s editorial says: A series of scandals and forgeries is taking place in the PNC sponsored by 'Arafat and the Jordanian King. Some of these scandals and forgeries were carried by news agencies; others could be seen on Jordanian television. This theatrical is accompanied by developments within this forged council which require that we adopt and implement what we must adopt and implement. We refer to what King Husayn wanted from this 'Arafatist council. The king clearly placed before the council two alternatives — either join him on the path of capitulationist settlement or go its own way.

Having carried out this direct threat and open blackmail, the king prepared and concocted the plot, put it before the Amman council, and left it for 'Arafat and his gang to ripen the independent Palestinian decisionmaking [as heard] to adopt the plot and empower King Husayn to negotiate on liquidating the cause. This was admitted by 'Arafat's aides such as Salah Khalaf and Khalil al-Wazir, who asserted yesterday that the most important issue before the Amman council is to discuss and approve King Husayn's initiative.

If we examine King Husayn's proposal carefully, we find that he asked the PLO to renounce armed struggle against the Zionist enemy, began negotiations with Israel on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 242, and revised the previous PLO stands, that is, categorically undermined previous Palestinian resolutions. His pretext is that dealing with the world demands flexibility, movement, and the renunciation of stagnation; that obtaining world support means requirements — in other words, concessions — that the PLO should offer. If we add that in his blackmail campaign, King Husayn referred to the time element, saying that the situation brooks no delay, we become aware of the need for haste in convening the 'Arafatist council in Amman and how the hue and cry about the independent Palestinian decisionmaking became a prelude to extracting a resolution by the 'Arafatist council to concede the cause, the land, and the rights, and to empower the king to confiscate the resolutions and decisions of the Palestinian people.

The crime of King Husayn and 'Arafat against Palestinian rights and the cause is very great in both size and results. The Jordanian regime cannot hide this crime through the farcical drama being shown on Jordanian television to conceal the concocted plot ripened in Washington and Tel Aviv and whose roles were assigned to King Husayn, 'Arafat, and his gangs. The smell of treason can be sensed in the speeches of both the king and 'Arafat. The aim is to liquidate Palestine — people, cause, territory, and organization.

On the same subject *TISHRIN* says: The divisionist Amman PNC was required to affix its stamp — and it did — so that a very serious phase, as serious as Al-Sadat's deed, will begin.

Our Palestinian people's forces and organizations and our Arab nation must lay the basis for confronting this serious phase through a fully planned, integrated strategy to foil this great plot and overthrow all its symbols and dimensions. We must find practical means to answer this treason with all means and tools and to affirm to our nation and people in the occupied territory; that deviation is a crime that must be punished; that the tunnel of liquidation is blocked; that capitulation is a separate, condemned action; and that 'Arafat's PNC, which could be named camp Yig'al Allon — just like Reagan's Camp David, Camp David proper, or the 17 May agreement — will be doomed to fall.

Only fighting and struggle to regain all Palestinian rights will triumph. The PLO will restore its brightness and confrontation line, and will regain its genuine independent Palestinian national decisionmaking on a definite, clear basis of struggle.

Anti-Jordanian 'National Front' Established

JN271623 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Damascus — The Jordanian national movement's parties and forces as well as the Palestinian revolution factions have held a series of meetings during which they discussed the political situation in the Jordanian and Palestinian arenas, particularly the serious role being played by the Husayn-'Arafat axis whose aim is to join the U.S. settlement on the basis of the Camp David accords and Reagan's plan that seek to liquidate the Palestine question and end the Arab-Zionist conflict in favor of the Zionist enemy and U.S. imperialism.

During their meetings, the parties, forces, and factions emphasized that this conspiratorial role by the agent regime in Jordan and the deviationist Palestinian right wing, led by 'Arafat, is dangerous not only on the Jordanian-Palestinian level, but also on the pan-Arab level as it serves the U.S. schemes in the entire region and conspires against all the pan-Arab forces. The conferees discussed the ways to foil the serious role being played by Husayn, 'Arafat, and the Arab reactionaries, and reviewed the dangers posed by the current developments. They also discussed the need to establish a national front in Jordan to assume all forms of struggle and to foil the conspiratorial link being implemented by Husayn and 'Arafat. Accordingly, the conferees approved the national front's charter, which indicates the current aims and tasks to be assumed on the Jordanian, Arab, and international levels. The charter says that the front is a framework for national action by all parties, factions, popular and trade union forces and organizations, and both the Jordanian and Palestinian personalities that abide by the front's program and exercise struggle accordingly.

The conferees announced the establishement of a national front in Jordan for the sake of establishing a national democratic regime that forms a basis for the national Palestinian struggle and an integral part of the Arab and world national liberation movement.

'Disappointment' Expressed Over Al-Naqurah Talks

TA280936 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Nov 84 pp 1, 2

['Akiva Eldar report]

[Text] Senior Jerusalem political sources think the Al-Naqurah talks are on the brink of breaking down. According to the sources, the Syrians have lost control of the Lebanese representatives to the talks. Jerusalem hopes that a senior Syrian representative will be sent to Beirut to apply pressure to the government not to sabotage the talks.

It has been learned that the UN assistant secretary general's aide, Jean-Claude Aime, reported to Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche a few days ago about grave difficulties which emerged in his talks with Lebanese representatives on the matter of UNIFIL deployment in areas to be evacuated by the IDF. At the last session, the Lebanese representatives to the Al-Naqurah talks expressed strong opposition to a UNIFIL presence between the Al-Zahrani and Al-Litani Rivers. They are insisting that the Lebanese Army deploy throughout the area. Jerusalem did not expect such sharp opposition to the UNIFIL deployment plan and had believed the main opposition would be to the deployment of the army of southern Lebanon north of the international border.

Last night, a Jerusalem Foreign Ministry spokesman for the first time publicly expressed disappointment over the moves in the Al-Naqurah talks so far, and especially over the Lebanese refusal to have UNIFIL forces positioned between the Al-Zahrani and Al-Litani Rivers. The spokesman pointed out that this was an important part of the security arrangements meant to guarantee the Galilee's safety, and he warned that without suitable security arrangements Israel would not be able to withdraw and would be forced to take unilateral steps. In the announcement, the spokesman points out that the demand to position UNIFIL forces in Lebanon does not change Israel's position regarding the organization, whose functioning Israel has not viewed enthusiastically in the past.

Peres, Shamir Meet, Agree To Settle Problems

TA271104 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] At this morning's meeting between Peres and Shamir, the dispute that surfaced over the past few days following the exchange of accusations between members of the Likud and the Alignment, was almost certainly settled.

Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that the two men agreed that the statements quoted had been inflated, and work is now needed to calm down feelings. Peres and Shamir expressed the view that there is no current danger to the existence of the national unity government.

Our correspondent points out that the issue took up only a small part of the talk between the two, which concentrated mainly on the various political issues.

Shamir on Government, Tabah

TA272010 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Yoram Ronen; date and place not given — videotaped]

[Text] [Ronen] Following the meeting this morning with Prime Minister Peres, Yitzhaq Shamir says that the problems and malfunctions in the government must be stopped.

[Shamir] Everything must be done to remove the stumbling blocks in order to preserve this government, so that it will continue to function efficiently and do its job. I think this is possible and that we will achieve it.

[Ronen] Will you not respond to statements such as that of Minister Gur, who said that the Alignment ministers come to work in order to work, whereas the Likud ministers come to work in order to undermine the government?

[Shamir] I will not leave them unanswered. I think that these must stop. These statements are baseless and they have no place. They must be stopped, and I believe that all the ministers of this government are convinced — and they have to be convinced — that such statements are harmful to the existence and functioning of the government. They must be stopped.

[Ronen] Mr Shamir, Likud Knesset members yesterday said that contacts on Tabah are being held with the participation of Minister 'Ezer Weizman, but without your knowledge. Are all actions taken with your knowledge?

[Shamir] No actions are being taken. There are people who raise suggestions and ideas. The issue has not even been raised once for discussion in the government. The Foreign Ministry is constantly dealing with this issue. I do not believe that there is room for special concern. The government will continue to pursue the same policy, one which has been decided and which we took upon ourselves to continue.

[Ronen] And are you briefed on the actions taken by the prime minister on the Tabah issue?

[Shamir] I believe I am.

[Ronen] And what do you think about the activity of Minister 'Ezer Weizman concerning Egypt and Tabah?

[Shamir] I do not think he is active, and I do not think he has any authority to carry out activities on this issue. This is an issue entirely under the jurisdiction of the Foreign Ministry.

[Ronen] And this stand — that Minister 'Ezer Weizman should not be active — is also acceptable to the prime minister?

[Shamir] I suppose it is.

Shamir: Egypt Agrees to MFO Deployment in Tabah

TA281047 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1043 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Text] Israel has agreed that the Tabah negotiations be conducted in Beersheba or Isma'ilia. This was said in the Knesset by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. He commented that the Egyptians had agreed that the MFO would enter the Tabah area as the solution to the problem. He was speaking in the Knesset in reply to a motion for the agenda by Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen.

Knesset Member's Trip to Amman Evokes Response

To Address PNC

TA271922 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Labor Party Knesset Member 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah left this evening for Amman, via a European country, to address the PNC. This is reported in the new edition of *KOTERET RASHIT*. Before leaving, MK Darawshah said that he hopes the dramatic effect of his peace gesture will be greater than the public storm which will ensue. The visit to Amman was arranged by the Palestinian journalist Raymonda al-Tawil, and according to Darawshah's remarks the visit was not coordinated with the prime minister. Darawshah said that in his address in Amman he will demand that the PLO stop terrorist attacks and abrogate the clauses of the Palestinian Charter calling for the destruction of Israel.

Peres Unaware

TA271934 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] It was reported a short time ago from the prime minister's office that Knesset Member Darawshah's trip to Amman is being made without the knowledge of Mr Peres. The office added that the trip is under examination.

Inquiry Ordered

TA272027 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Israel's Attorney General Yitzhaq Zamir has ordered police to investigate the Israelis who took part in the PNC meeting. They are suspected of entering an enemy country without receiving prior permission from the Ministry of the Interior. They are also suspected of making contact with foreign agents.

Alignment, Likud React

TA272046 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2000 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Amazement was expressed in the Alignment and the Likud after it was learned that Labor Party Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah has left Israel to address the PNC meeting in Amman. The report of Darawshah's departure comes from the new edition of the weekly *KOTERET RASHIT*.

Labor Party Secretary General 'Uzi Bar'am said in a television interview that neither he nor the prime minister knew anything about the trip. This is a serious move and he condemns it. Likud MK Eliyahu Ben-Elisar said that the possibility of lifting MK Darawshah's immunity must be considered, as well as putting him on trial. The television correspondent reports that Darawshah has arrived on Cyprus, and after making his connection, he will continue to Amman. Ra'anan Kohen, head of the Labor Party Minorities Department, says that if the report is true, then conclusions must be drawn. He told our correspondent Arye Gus that in his opinion MK Darawshah was mistaken in taking this hasty step and in not coordinating his departure with the appropriate institutions.

Shamir Expresses Anger

TA272114 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2100 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir tonight expressed anger at the reported trip by Knesset Member 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah to address the PNC meeting in Amman. According to our correspondent Amnon Nadav, Shamir said that this is a licentious act which demands a sharp and immediate reaction. Likud ministers who asked not to be identified told our correspondent that they are concerned about upheavals in the government if it turns out that political initiatives by the Alignment are behind Darawshah's trip.

Al-Tawil Praises Trip

TA280632 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Text] Palestinian journalist Raymonda al-Tawil, head of the Palestine PRESS SERVICE, has categorically denied the claim in the magazine *KOTERET RASHIT* that she helped Darawshah travel to Amman to attend the Palestine National Council meeting. Al-Tawil was speaking to reporter Jerry Cheslow:

[Begin recording] [Al-Tawil] I am shocked to hear that. I deny it completely. I had nothing to do with it. I just heard it, like everybody, from the television, so I know nothing about it. This man had great courage and he's a pioneer to take such a step and his mission to the PNC, I believe that his mission will be a mission of peace.

[Cheslow] Do you think that he coordinated this with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres?

[Al-Tawil] Well, Mr Shim'on Peres denied, but there is [word indistinct] reaction that he is not going on his own. See, how can he go on his own? He's a member of the Labor Party. [end recording]

'Arafat Agreed to Appearance

TA281238 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Nov 84 pp 1, 11

[Shefi Gabay, Refa'el Mann, Yehoshu'a Bitzur, Barukh Me'iri, and Sha'ya Segal report]

[Excerpts] Palestinian figures from the territories, as well as Arabs who previously held Israeli citizenship, helped Labor Party Knesset Member 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah go to the PNC meeting in Amman. These figures from the territories, who are described as moderates and who are banned from going to Amman, conveyed the proposal for MK Darawshah's visit to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat during the past 4 days. 'Arafat's agreement was received via the messengers who cross over the Jordan River bridges.

A source close to the PLO in East Jerusalem told *MA'ARIV*, based on sources in the terrorist organization [PLO] in Nicosia, that MK Darawshah is in Cyprus.

According to that source, MK Darawshah himself initiated the trip to Amman to deliver a speech to the PNC.

Knesset Member Sends PNC Congratulations Letter

TA272021 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Knesset Member Muhammad Mi'ari has sent the PNC in Amman a letter of congratulations on behalf of the Progressive List for Peace. The letter says that the Progressive List believes the PNC meeting in Amman emphasizes the legitimacy of the Palestinian leadership and the independence of the Palestinian people's will. It also says that the Progressive List hopes that the sessions and decisions of the PNC will contribute to achieving a just peace for the two nations — both Israeli and Palestinian. Our correspondent reports that the letter was sent via a Palestinian publishing house on Cyprus. The publishing house, which is named (Beshan) — Bet She'an in Hebrew — publishes two official PLO organs. Answering our correspondent, MK Mi'ari said he had no reservations about sending the letter.

Arabic Editorial Discusses Amman PNC Meeting

JN271247 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 24 Nov p 1

[Editorial: "The March Will Not Stop"]

[Text] The attempts to obstruct the Palestinian institutions and foil the current PNC session have not succeeded. The convocation of the PNC in Amman asserts that the Palestinian national decisionmaking is stronger than all opponents, and that the Palestinian leadership under 'Arafat is ready to challenge and is capable of succeeding so that the Palestinian will remain free. This stand is a great political triumph, but it is not the only triumph we are seeking.

In his speech at the PNC, leader Yasir 'Arafat has left the door open for national dialogue. Both the PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine asserted their refusal to establish an alternative liberation organization. Their stand is a step toward the accord, regardless of what took place and what is taking place. At this decisive stage in our history, it is not necessary to raise slogans and announce stands, but to implement them. The agreement reached in Aden and Algeria is great and fantastic, but until now it has been merely ink on paper because the Democratic Alliance was unable to adhere to it and to implement it.

Those who are concerned about the PLO's unity, and even those who claim such a concern, must work for this unity. They must not just level false accusations and unjust lies against Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian leaders.

We are still fairly confident that some of the Palestinians who are boycotting the PNC session and whose political history shows that they are patriots will, despite their mistakes and their fumblings, respond to the call of logic and history and to the blood of the martyrs, and will shake off the shackles they either imposed on themselves or had imposed on them by others.

The possibility of agreement still exists and will continue to exist as long as there is a sincere intention and unified objectives. However, if they insist on their stands, the march will not stop. This is the real purpose for convening the PNC in Amman in these circumstances.

PLO Attempting To Increase 'Terrorist' Activities

TA280633 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Text] In preparation for the PNC meeting, the PLO has made great attempts to cause breaches of the peace in the territories and increase terrorist activities. Toward this end, it has funneled large amounts of money into the area. This has been reported by our correspondent in Judaea and Samaria.

Peres To Visit Rome 'Shortly' After Paris

TA280806 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Nov 84 P 2

[Mark Segal report]

[Text] Prime Minister Peres plans to visit Rome shortly after his visit to Paris next week.

This was learned from Oscar Mammi, the Italian minister for liaison with parliament, who is visiting here. The minister, a senior member of the Republican Party, referred to the coming visit to Israel of Italian Defence Minister Giovanni Spadolini, also a member of the Republican Party. The minister was a guest of honour at a dinner party given by Italian Ambassador Corrado Taliani at his home here.

Mammi, who also met with President Herzog and Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hilel, said the visit to Rome would be part of the continuing effort to improve relations with member-countries of the EEC. He noted that Italian Foreign Minister Guilio Andreotti is president-elect of the European Economic Commission.

The Italian minister did not see any cause for alarm on Israel's part concerning the expected discussion of a new Middle East initiative at the forthcoming Dublin summit of the EEC.

U.S. Promise Not To Sell Arms to Iraq Viewed

TA272042 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1910 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Today the United States and Iraq renewed diplomatic relations which were broken off by Baghdad after the 6-day war.

A senior Israeli official, who asked to remain anonymous, said that Israel has known for several months that these relations would be resumed.

He stressed that Israel will strongly oppose any weapons sales to Iraq, and that Washington has promised Israel that no such arms deals are to be expected.

British Reportedly Leak Israeli-PRC Arms Deals

TA221319 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 22 Nov 84 p 2

[Ilan Kfir report]

[Text] British Government sources are behind the leaks in the Western press, particularly the London press, on arms deals between Israel and China. Jerusalem has refused to react to reports that have been published on this.

HADASHOT has learned that British Government officials leaked the Israeli-Chinese arms deal to the *SUNDAY TIMES* weekly in London and to *JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY*. Several weeks ago the *SUNDAY TIMES* published the news that Israel had sold China 105-mm cannons, which were mounted on tanks manufactured by the Soviet Union. Yesterday *JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY* claimed that the deals between Israel and China are worth $3 billion, and that Israeli military experts are training the Chinese Army.

Ivory Coast President Receives Peres Message

TA221258 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Nov 84 p 2

[Gid'on Kuts report]

[Text] The president of the Ivory Coast, Felix Houphouet-Boigny, rejected Foreign Minister Shamir's proposal to meet him in Paris, but agreed to meet a delegation headed by David Kimche, the Foreign Ministry's director general, who brought him a message from Prime Minsiter Shim'on Peres.

In the message, Peres asked Houphouet-Boigny to look into the possibility of resuming diplomatic relations between Israel and the Ivory Coast. The handling of the matter showed a lack of coordination between Prime Minister Peres and Foreign Minister Shamir.

It started last month when Shamir was visiting the UN General Assembly in New York. Representatives of the foreign minister contacted the office of the elderly president of the Ivory Coast who was visiting France at the time, in a bid to arrange a meeting between Shamir and Houphouet-Boigny in Paris, when the foreign minsiter would be on his way back to Israel from New York. These representatives claimed that Shamir had a message from Peres for the president. African sources claimed, when they investigated the matter, that Shamir did not have a message from Shim'on Peres, and that the prime minister did not know anything about the initiative by his foreign minister.

The sources said that President Houphouet-Boigny preferred a meeting with the prime minister, and of course he could not meet with both at different times.

It seems that the matter was settled only after Peres himself arrived in New York. Houphouet-Boigney then agreed to receive a delegation carrying a message from the prime minister. The delegation was headed by David Kimche, and the other participants were Avraham Primor, the head of the African Department in the Foreign Ministry, and Israel's ambassador to Paris, 'Ovadya Sofer.

The Ivory Coast president refrained from answering the message, but he promised to look into it and make a reply. It is believed that he will give an answer at a news conference in Abidjan in early January, when Houphouet-Boigny will address various international matters.

Resumed Ties With 3 States Expected Soon

TA231059 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Nov 84 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] Israel expects diplomatic ties to be resumed soon with three African countries. Political sources in Jerusalem told *DAVAR* that they are optimistic at the prospect of renewing relations with the Ivory Coast, Guinea, and Cameroon. According to reports in the international media, Israel already has representations in and extensive commercial ties with these countries.

Political sources confirmed that Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche recently met with the elderly president of the Ivory Coast, Felix Houphouet-Boigny. The meeting took place in Paris and the sources said David Kimche held this meeting because Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir could not confer with the African president due to previous engagements. At the meeting the two discussed resuming relations between Israel and the Ivory Coast.

Sharir Signs Tourism Agreement With France

TA271855 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Excerpts] The official visit by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres next week to France will be an important and historic visit. This was said by the French premier to Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir. The tourism minister and his French counterpart a short time ago initialed a bilateral tourism agreement. Here is a report from Paris by Rafi Matar:

[Begin recording] Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir today gave the French premier a message from Shim'on Peres, in which the latter asked Laurent Fabius to help promote joint tourism programs.

The tourism minister said that Israel has managed to recruit the French premier, who is an extremely important factor, in the effort to promote tourism. According to Minister Sharir, Peres' visit to Paris — which is being carefully prepared by the French — will greatly advance Israel's interests. A news conference at the end of the official visit by the Israeli tourism minister has just ended, and his French counterpart, Michel Crepeau, expressed his satisfaction at the real progress made in bilateral cooperation. The tourism ministers decided to establish a joint working team in order to implement the cooperation agreement. The emphasis will be on encouraging tourism — medical conferences and mass tourism — technological cooperation, and encouraging French investments in Israel. [end recording]

RAKAH Leader, Delegation Leave for Poland

TA251645 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1548 GMT 25 Nov 84

[Text] Tel Aviv, 25 Nov (ITIM) — A delegation of the RAKAH Central Committee left for Poland today. The delegation included RAKAH Secretary-General Me'ir Wilner; David Khinin, a member of the Political Department; and George Tubi, a member of the party Secretariat. The delegation left at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Polish Communist Party, which wanted to hold talks with the RAKAH Central Committee. The delegation will spend about a week in Poland.

IDF Source on Use of Artillery at Qabb Ilyas

TA271332 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon radio station says that IDF artillery in the Jabal al-Baruk and Kifrayya areas this afternoon fired on terrorist targets in the Qabb Ilyas area in northern Lebanon, the same site which was bombed by the Air Force.

Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that according to reports from Beirut, seven dead and nine wounded were removed from the debris. Lebanese police say that five of the seven dead were terrorists as well as all the wounded. It was reported that three buildings were destroyed and that F-15 and F-16 planes were used in the raid. The Syrian Army fired on our planes, but missed.

An IDF source told our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal that he does not know anything about IDF artillery shelling in that area.

Civil Guard Commander Assassinated Near Tyre

TA252005 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Nov 84

[Text] The civil guard commander appointed by Israel in the refugee camps in southern Lebanon was assassinated today. The man, 'Abdallah al-Nasir, was assassinated with his bodyguard in the Al-Bass refugee camp near Tyre. In the last few days three other civil guard members have been shot at.

National Emergency Board Holds Exercise

TA271751 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] National Emergency Board officials say they are not sure whether Israel can build atomic fallout shelters and protect itself in a nuclear war. The officials told our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal that they do not deal at all with problems involved in a nuclear war. Instead, they prepare for a war in which biological or chemical means are used. The National Emergency Board held an exercise today to check its readiness should a war break out.

Lawyer Threatened With Death for Defending Arabs

TA280759 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Nov 84 p 3

[Text] Vandals recently spray-painted Jerusalem lawyer Felicia Langer's office door, defacing it with death threats and accusing her of being a PLO supporter.

Langer told *THE JERUSALEM POST* last night that the incident apparently took place while she was out of Jerusalem on Sunday night. Police, she said, are investigating.

She noted that, alhtough this is not the first time she has been vilified for defending Arabs, she has never before been so brazenly threatened with death. Langer said she is far more alarmed by this latest incident than by the threatening letters she received 10 months ago.

Langer has earned the animosity of right-wing circles for her defence of Arabs, particularly in land disputes on the West Bank. She is currently involved in litigation concerning the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp outside Bethlehem — the site of several stone-throwing incidents in recent months. Jewish settlers nearby are negotiating to have the camp demolished.

Briefs

Finance Media Consultant Appointed — Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i on 23 November appointed David Admon as his media consultant. [Summary] [*Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0940 GMT 23 Nov 84 TA*]

Prime Minister Aide Appointed — Jerusalem, 22 Nov (ITIM) — Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has appointed Dr Nitza Shapira-Liba'i as his adviser on affairs pertaining to the status of women. The appointment will go into effect on 15 December 1984. [Excerpt] [*Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0745 GMT 22 Nov 84 TA*]

ALGERIA

Joint Communique Issued by FLN-Poland

LD251404 Algiers APS in English 1013 GMT 25 Nov 84

[Text] Algiers, 25 April (APS) — A joint communique was issued on the 22 November following the working visit made in Peoples Republic of Poland, by a delegation of FLN party headed by Said Ait Messaoudene, CC member of the permanent, Secretariat of the Central Committee on the invitation of the Workers Unified Party (P.O.U.P). [sentence as received]

The two delegations expressed in the communique their satisfaction with the positive activities carried out by the two parties, the FLN Party in reinforcing its structures and developing the materialization of the objectives determined by the national charter the (P.O.U.P) Party in stabilizing the economic and the socio-political life in Poland, in reinforcing its international position of struggle for peace and progress and security of nations.

The two sides also expressed their concern over the international crisis and underlined the necessity to reinforce the unity of action of all the progressive forces fighting for peace and security of the nation.

The two parties expressed their support for the Palestinian people and agreed to the convening of an international conference over the Middle East such as had been proposed by Soviet Union and which requires the full participations of PLO as unique and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The two parties also expressed their worry about the continuation of the Iraq- Iranian conflict.

Dealing with the present situation in Africa, they expressed their support for the movement of liberation against the colonial domination apartheid and racism, they reaffirmed their backing for the Namibian people under its legitimate direction of SWAPO.

Analysing the situation in North East Africa, the POUP and the FLN Party agreed to the recognition of Saharoui people's right for self determination and independence and underlined that any solution to the conflict goes through the integral implementation of the 19th OAU summit confirmed by UN.

The two sides recalled the major role of the nonaligned movement for universal peace and the development of international economic cooperation the Polish delegation praised Algeria's activity in this field. "Expressing their satisfaction with the state of relations between POUP and FLN Party decided to work towards their reinforcing and extending. In this regard, a proto-(col of agreement was signed for year 1985-1986.

Nicaraguan Foreign Trade Minister Arrives

LD261651 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Algiers, 26.11.84. (APS) — The Nicaraguan minister of foreign trade, Cuenca Alejandro Martinez, yesterday afternoon arrived in Algiers as the Nicaraguan president's envoy and carrying a message for President Chadli Bendjedid. He was welcomed at Houari Boumedienne Airport by Abdelaziz Khellef, Central Committee member and commerce minister and the Nicaraguan ambassador to Algeria.

Upon arrival, Cuenca Martinez gave a short news conference in which he mentioned the recent elections in Nicaragua, which have once again shown the popular and democratic character of the Sandinist revolution. The Nicaraguan minister added: "we came here seeking support from the Algerian people" stressing "today, more than ever, we are in need of the international community's assistance. We are currently facing the threat of an intervention by Reagan's government, which does not understand our country's desire for peace and our people's determination to defend their freedom, whatever the price might be".

LIBYA

Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi Grants Interview to ABC

LD280047 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Text] The American ABC has conducted an interview with the brother commander via satellite. In this interview, which was broadcast live throughout the United States, the brother commander replied to the questions put to him by the American television network on various international issues.

In his replies the brother commander affirmed that we denounce terrorism as an act of aggression against the innocent, but we differentiate between terrorism and legitimate struggle for freedom.

The brother commander affirmed that it is our right to have nuclear technology for peaceful purposes as other countries of the world have. He affirmed that we have no aggressive intentions; we have called for the destruction of all nuclear weapons so that they will not cause a catastrophe for mankind, he said.

The brother commander also spoke of the philosophy behind the Third Universal Theory, which calls for direct democracy and the seizure of authority, wealth, and weapons by the people, affirming that the new generations in the world will be influenced by these humane thoughts and apply them. He added that there is no president or government in Libya: I am only a commander of a revolution. He added that the revolutionary committees incite the masses to exercise and preserve it.

The brother commander affirmed also the Jamahiriyah's adherence to the Libyan-French agreement on Chad. In conclusion he called on the American people to study the Third Universal Theory and fully understand it in order to create a new world.

JANA Commentary Views New Iraq-U.S. Relations

LD271530 Tripoli JANA in English 1409 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Washington, Rabi Awal 6, Nov. 27, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Restoration of political relations was formally announced on November 25th in Baghdad and Washington between the Iraqi regime and the U.S. Government.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY quoted the text of the joint statement, saying the governments of Iraq and the U.S. have agreed to resume relations between them as starting from yesterday. It pointed out, this agreement was reached by deputy premier and foreign minister of the Saddam Husayn regime, Tariq 'Aziz and Ronald Reagan following their meeting yesterday in Washington.

This decision was no surprise to political observers, it is a formality for a decision that had been put to practice a long time ago. Visits and contacts between officials in the Iraqi regime and the U.S. Government have never ceased and U.S. economic and military assistance has been coming uninterrupted, though not in public as the case would be after this formal decision. It would also be asserted that starting war against Iran took place through American desire, visits and contacts between officials in the two countries under the cover of allegedly severed relations.

The formal announcement of the decision of restoration of political relations between Washington and Baghdad is an American declaration of escalating (?world) hysteria against the Islamic revolution in Iran through an Iraqi tool, a tool that has been working outside the Arab national will. In other words, America has clearly joined the war.

Jabir Makes Tour of USSR, CSSR, Syria

Jabir Ends Moscow Visit

LD232157 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 23 Nov 84

[Text] Brigadier General Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, ended this evening his visit to the Soviet Union. Brig Gen Abu Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, was seen off with official ceremony at Moscow Airport.

At the forefront of those who saw him off was Marshal Akhromeyev, first deputy defense minister and chief of General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces. Also participating in the ceremony were the commanders of the Air Force, Navy, Army and the Air Defense, a number of senior officials of the defense ministry, and the secretary and members of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Moscow.

CSSR Premier, Jabir Talk

LD271059 Tripoli JANA in English 0857 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Prague, 6 Rabi Awal, 27 Nov, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Mr Lubomir Strougal, the prime minister of Czechoslovakia, received yesterday morning Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander-in-chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces. Discussed during this meeting were the support and development of the bilateral relations existing between the Jamahiryah and Czechoslovakia and the increase in the concentration of joint cooperation between the two friendly countries in all aspects.

Jabir Arrives in Damascus

LD262328 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, arrived at noon today in Damascus. He was welcomed by General Mustafa Talas, the Syrian defense minister, as well as a number of Syrian Army officers and members and the secretary of the Libyan Arab Fraternity Bureau in Damascus.

Jabir Returns After Tour

LD271544 Tripoli JANA in English 1426 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Awal 6, nov. 27, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces wound up visits to the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and Syria and arrived, early today, in the Jamahiriyah. Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir held during his visits talks with officials in the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and Syria in the frame of the existing cooperation relations between the Jamahiriyah and these countries.

Mubarak Holds 'Consultations' With Military

LD250457 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 25 Nov 84

[Text] The president of the Egyptian regime, Husni Mubarak, held unexpected consultations with Egyptian Defense Minister 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazala and senior Egyptian military commanders yesterday. General ibrahim 'Urabi, commander of the Armed Forces, took part in this meeting. No details were released about this meeting during which it is not ruled out that preparations for the undertaking of an aggression against Libya might have been discussed. DPA said that the Egyptian forces had been put on a state of maximum alert.

MAURITANIA

ONAM Warns Against Senegal Arrests, Expulsions

AU241951 Rome ANSA in English 1940 GMT 24 Nov 84

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, November 24 — The Opposition movement of Mauritanian Nationalists (ONAM) issued a threat from Rome today that its guerrillas would play the game of international terrorism if Senegal did not immediately halt its campaign of arrests and expulsions against Mauritanian dissidents who have taken refuge in Dakar in past years.

The warning was issued by ONAM President Khattri Ould Die who was expelled from Senegal last week and who is now "in exile" in Italy.

Khattri Ould Die told ANSA today that he has made an urgent appeal to the secretary of the United Nations asking him to intervene in person and as soon as possible for else ONAM would have to resort to arms and bombs, "which we have so far refrained from doing," he added.

He also called on all African heads of state to put pressure on Senegal "before it is too late".

He said that ONAM guerrillas have been militarily trained and are capable of joining in "the games of international terrorism" at any moment.

The head of Maruritanian nationalists had words of praise fro the president of the Italian Republic and for the Italian Government for the positive conclusion of the case of Mauritanian exile El Abidine Ben Boujagui Zein, who had been blocked at Rome's International Airport but who yesterday was given premission to enter Italy.

MOROCCO

UN Called on To Supervise Sahara Referendum

LD271257 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Excerpts] Morocco has submitted a draft resolution at the UN Fourth Committee debate on the Moroccan Sahara. The draft resolution submitted by Morocco calls on the United Nations to supervise the referendum and the cease-fire in the Sahara.

Polisario Front Claims 136 Moroccan Dead

NC231816 Paris AFP in English 1809 GMT 23 Nov 84

[Text] Algiers, Nov 23 (AFP) — A total of 136 Moroccan soldiers were killed during about 20 raids carried out by the Polisario Front in Western Sahara between November 6 and 20, according to a Polisario statement issued here today. The attacks were on Moroccan posts in the north of the disputed territory, the statement said. The Algerian-backed front, which is fighting for the independence of Western Sahara, added that 240 Moroccan soldiers had been wounded in the raids.

SUDAN

Lagu Confers With PRC Friendship Delegaton

JN271537 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Nov (SUNA) — This morning, Vice President Joseph Lagu received a delegation of the Chinese people's association for friendship with foreign countries which is currently visiting the country led by its Vice-President Lin Lin at the invitation of the national council for solidarity, friendship, and peace.

Following the meeting, Lagu made a press statement in which he said that the meeting dealt with strong friendship relations between the two countries and ways to promote this friendship. He also pointed out that the PRC has extended great services to Sudan, including its contribution to the construction of the friendship auditorium and (Hantub) bridge as well as sending medical teams to Sudan to work in different parts of Sudan. He also expressed the hope that the delegation will wnjoy their stay in the country and have a successful visit.

In a press statement, Lin Lin also expressed his pleasure at the PRC friendship delegation's visit to Sudan, stressing that this visit will contribute to promoting relations between the two countries in all fields.

Army Spokesman on Foiled Ethiopian Infiltration

JN241009 Khartoum SUNA in English 0955 GMT 24 Nov 84

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 24 (SUNA) — Troops from Leire garrison in southern Kordofan region last week foiled an infiltration operation by outlaws group, annihilating them following their refusal to surrender.

The People's Armed Forces spokesman Babakr 'Abd al-Rahim told SUNA today that working according to information indicating that groups of outlaws had entered the country from the Ethiopian border and bound for southern Kordofan the Armed Forces in Leire garrison moved and foiled the attempt.

The spokesman said the aim of the attempt was to transfer the subversive operation to other parts of the country in a bid to impede the development project. President Numayri in his capacity as defense minister and commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces has sent a cable of praise to the General Command Kordofan region for this victory.

WESTERN SAHARA

SFRY Recognizes Saharan Democratic Arab Republic

LD281310 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1126 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Text] Belgrade, 28 nov (TANJUG) — The SFRY today recognized the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (SDAR). The decision to recognize the SDAR has been made based on the fact that the SDAR has become a full member of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and based on Yugoslavia's consistent support for the implementation of the people's right to self-determination in keeping with the decisions of the UN and Nonaligned Movement countries. The right to self-determination for the people of the West Sahara, who set up their own Saharan democratic Arab Republic, has also been acknowledged.

ETHIOPIA

'More Than Four' Passengers Request Asylum

EA272021 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Conducting negotiations with the hijackers for the Ethiopian side from the day the plane was forced to land at Bole airport were: Comrade Goshu Wolde, Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee member and minister of foreign affairs; Comrade Feleke Gedle Giorgis, WPE Central Committee Member and minister of information and national guidance; Comrade Aseged Wolde Amanuel, permanent secretary at the Ministry of Transport and Communications; and officials from the Ministry of Public and National Security.

Signor Oliviero Rossi, the Italian ambassador to Ethiopia, represented the Italian side.

At the present more than four people who were passengers on the plane have requested political asylum in Ethiopia.

Government's Efforts Praised

EA271912 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] The hijackers of the Somali Boeing 707 airliner said today: We are not terrorists but people struggling for justice and true independence for the Somali people by opposing the inhumane actions of the Siad Barre regime in Somalia.

In a statement the three hijackers, Captain Awil Burhan, Bashe Musa Muhammad, and Haji Ahmad, pointed out that the imprisonment and genocide practiced by the Siad Barre regime against intellectuals, students, and peaceful civilians are very saddening. They added that at present Mr Ismail 'Ali Aboker, former Somali vice president, Mr Omar Arteh Ghalib, former foreign minister, and others are suffering in Somali prisons. The hijackers said that they repeatedly explained the inhumane killings and imprisonment in Somalia to the world community and human rights organizations. They said that this dangerous situation is worsening and that tension and fear in Somalia are increasing.

They pointed out that they carried out this hijacking to save the lives of the Somali citizens sentenced to death. They added that, as a result of the guarantee by the Siad Barre regime to the effect that it will not endanger the lives of the prisoners, they consider that they have achieved their goal.

The hijackers pointed out that they did not hijack the airliner to create terrorism and to worry peaceful people and hurt them, but to tell the world community of the inhumane actions being carried out by the government of Siad Barre. If this were not the case they would have been forced to kill those among the passengers who were governors, permanent secretaries, and other officials and blow up the plane. They added that the fact that they refrained from doing this and that they released the passengers and crew proved that they do not stand for terrorism. They said that the Ethiopian Government's efforts to save the passengers and to find a peaceful solution to the situation were unrivaled. They said that they consider their own lives to have been saved as well as those of the passengers. They said that the treatment shown to them by the Ethiopian Government, for which they said they have great admiration, has been excellent.

In a statement some of the passengers made after their release, Hussein Elabe Fahia, permanent secretary at the Somali Planning Ministry, the former Somali justice minister who is now the protocol (?chief) at the Foreign Ministry, the pilot, Captain Muhammad Haji Elmi, the chief stewardess, Saud Muhammad, and others said that it was impossible to describe their shock and fear when they heard of the hijacking. They added that they were very afraid when they heard shooting in the plane. They said that they were in great distress when the hijackers threatened to blow up the plane with the passengers after the Somali Government failed to give a satisfactory and immediate reply.

On the other hand, they said that they could not believe it when they were told they were being released through the relentless efforts made by the Ethiopian Government to find a peaceful and bloodless end to the situation. They said that they would never forget the treatment they had been given while still on the plane and following their release.

The pilot, Capt Elmi, said in a statement that he did not expect such treatment and hospitality and said that he was very satisfied and surprised at the hospitality they were shown. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude for the efforts of the Ethiopian Government to save their lives.

While the passengers had not completely overcome their feelings of distress and shock when they heard of their release, as soon as they arrived at the special resting place prepared for them after disembarking from the plane, they realized that the situation was real and they were overjoyed. After they were joined by the women and children released earlier, the passengers were given lunch at Bole International airport. This afternoon they left for Sodere.

SOMALIA

Ethiopia Thanked for Assistance on Hijacking

EA271838 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] A Somali Democratic Republic Foreign Ministry spokesman said this afternoon that the report of the release of the Somali Airlines plane and its passengers hijacked by criminal terrorists satisfies the Somali Government and people.

The spokesman expressed profound thanks to all the governments and international organizations who had been tireless in their efforts to bring about this humanitarian act. The Foreign Ministry spokesman, while thanking the Ethiopian Government for its efforts in accordance with its governmental responsibilities and international laws, said the Somali Government awaited the immediate return to Somalia by the Ethiopian Government of the plane, its passengers, and the five hijackers.

TANZANIA

SWAPO National Chairman Makes 'Brief Visit'

EA281116 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1900 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Dar es Salaam — The national chairman of SWAPO, Ndugu David Meroro, has called on UN member-countries to support fully the liberation struggle in Namibia, which is currently under South African rule contrary to UN resolutions.

The SWAPO chairman, who is on a brief visit to Tanzania, told reporters in Dar es Salaam today that some UN member-countries which supported the Namibian liberation struggle had often hestitated to vote for UN resolutions intended to put pressure on South Africa. He called on independent African states to increase their assistance and to give SWAPO political, moral, and material support in its struggle against the apartheid regime.

UGANDA

Editor of Opposition Party Newspaper Detained

EA271850 Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 27 Nov 84 p 24

[Report by unidentified *DAILY NATION* correspondent]

[Text] Kampala, Monday — The editor of *MUNNANSI* newspaper, organ of the opposition Democratic party, has been placed under detention.

The paper recently carried reports alleging that several hundred North Korean troops had been deployed to help the Ugandan Government troops fight dissident guerrillas north of Kampala.

President Obote denied the allegations.

Top officials of the party said today that Mr Anthony Ssekweyama, in his late 30s, was served with the detention order when he reported to the criminal investigations department this morning.

The Democratic Party top leadership met this afternoon to consider the matter and were expected to issue a statement.

MUNNANSI reported on November 17 that over 300 North Koreans had arrived in Uganda to help the Uganda Army fight its armed opponents.

Then the newspaper wrote an editorial saying there was no justification for foreign troops'involvement in a purely civil war.

The Uganda Government has denied that any foreign troops have been deployed against the insurgents, insisting that the Koreans (Like Tanzanian and a couple dozen British military personnel) are in Uganda specifically to train the Uganda Army.

Mr Ssekweyama is already facing sedition charges in a Kampala district court and was out on bail.

Mr Ssekweyama's detention brings to nine the number of Uganda journalists currently being detained.

CHAD

Chadian Minister Seeks Urgent Aid for Famine Victims

AB272120 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Goura Lassou, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, this morning at his ministry gathered all ambassadors and representatives of donor countries and international organizations. He made a passionate plea before them for the urgent despatching of food assistance to Chad. He said without this food aid we cannot survive. Let us listen the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation:

[Begin Lassou Recording] You are aware that for some time now we have not had a single grain in the granaries and the situation is catastrophic. Every day we receive calls for help from every corner of Chad, in particular from the Sahel areas. Right now 12,000 persons have assembled in Ati, waiting for relief. At Adre, 30,000 persons are affected by the situation. All the people in Moussoro and in fact all the people in the Kanem region, (?are facing problems).

The entire population of the [words indistinct] have gathered in (Kanolek) waiting for relief materials. Here in Ndjamena, people are arriving daily. But, unfortunately, the granaries of the Ministry of Development and Natural Calamities are empty. It is because the situation is so serious that I called for this meeting, with you and your aides, in order to map out urgent measures to assist these people who are threathened by famine. [end recording]

Frolinat's Mahamat Abba Seid Interviewed on Chad

AB272114 Paris AFP in French 1825 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Lagos, 27 Nov (AFP) — The first army of Frolinat, led by Mahamat Abba Seid, has called for the immediate release of Acheikh Ibn Oumar, leader of the Revolutionary Democratic Council (CDR) and a meeting of faction leaders of the Transitional National Union Government (GUNT).

According to the CDR, Acheikh Ibn Oumar was arrested by the Libyans and is being detained in Fada (northern Chad). Other reports say he was arrested by forces of Goukouni Oueddei, leader of GUNT, and then by some CDR elements. In an AFP interview in Lagos Tuesday, Mahamat Abba Seid, former GUNT interior minister, denounced the formation of a new GUNT "which does not conform with the original agreement of the National Liberation Council of 28 November 1983."

He said differences that have appeared recently within the various factions of GUNT are caused by Goukouni Oueddei's decision to form a new government. Asserting that the solution of the Chadian problem can only be resolved by the factions who are signatories to the August 1979 Lagos Accord, Mahamat Abba Seid called for a recovening of these factions, either in Lagos or in Addis Ababa. According to him, such a meeting will allow for the installation of cease-fire, the unification of the armed forces of the factions, and the release of prisoners.

On the failure of the Brazzaville reconciliation meeting, he said,that the meeting did not achieve its assigned objective because of its technical nature."[word indistinct] the solution lies in a political will," he added.

"Hissein Habre will never negotiate as long as he had France's protection," it is therefore necessary that "France (?put pressure on) Hissein Habre to negotiate," Abba Seid added. He said he favored the departure of all foreign troops so that Chad could recover its territorial integrity. He expressed his fears that the return of French troops (to counteract the presence of about 600 Libyan soldiers still in Chad) will only aggravate the situation and will prevent the total withdrawal of Libyan troops.

"We maintain good relations with Libya," he added, observing that the problem of the Aozou Strip, currently occupied by Libya, should be settled bilaterally between Chad and Libya, "when Chad will have a government," he added. "Hissein Habre cannot guarantee peace in Chad, as the problems in southern Chad shows," he said. "It is only the Frolinat that offers good prospects," he concluded.

ZAIRE

'Perfect Calm' Prevails in Manono Region

AB262158 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1820 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Manono, 26 Nov (AZAP) — The presence of Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko today in Manono, 441 km by road west of Moba in northern Shaba, and 670 km north of Lubumbashi, has brought a stinging refutation to fantastic rumors, complacently taken up by foreign press that Manono was under the control of the outlaws. Manono is the headquarters of Zairetain [tin producing company].

In fact, after the leader's visit on Sunday to Moba, he returned to Kalemie, from where he went to Manono today amid an enthusiastic welcome from a large crowd. The inhabitants of Manono once more wanted to show, by the warmth of their welcome, their indefectible attachment and their unconditional support to the father of the nation.

The city of Manono is the headquarters of Zairetain, founded in 1910. There are about 30 expatriates working in that city of 85,000 inhabitants. The whole area, which bears the same name, has a population of more than 150,000. [Passage indistinct] Monsignor Ngoie Kabu, bishop of Manono, who was aroused to indignation to note that the international press was losing its credibility by publishing information of such importance without the least checking.

Marshal Mobutu returned to Kinshasa at 1515 [1415 GMT] after spending 3½ hours in Manono.

GHANA

Visiting British Official Received by PNDC Member

AB271952 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] The British deputy under secretary of state in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office with special responsibilities for Africa and the Middle East, Mr (?Irving) Fergusson, today called on Mr Justice D.F. Annan, a member of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] to discuss Ghana's present judicial machinery. They also discussed matters of mutual interest.

Briefing newsmen later, Mr Fergusson said he was on a 3-day tour of Ghana. He said he already had talks with the secretary for finance and economic planning, Dr Kwesi Botchway, the special adviser to the PNDC, Captain Kojo Tsikata, and the foreign secretary, Dr Obed Asamoah.

He said the talks have given him a better understanding of the policies being pursued by the government. Mr Fergusson pointed out that Britain has been through similar problems and knows how difficult it is to combine economic prosperity with social stability. He leaves for Britain tomorrow.

Rawlings Presents Accreditation to New Envoy

AB271556 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] The chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, this morning presented letters of accreditation to Ghana's new high commissioner to Nigeria, Brigadier Kwaku Adu Bediako, retired, at the Castle Osu.

Speaking at the ceremony, the director for African and OAU affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr J.L.M. Amissah, reminded the envoy of the areas to address himself. These include the joint commission for cooperation between the two countries and the efforts the two countries are making in the liberation struggle on the continent.

In a brief speech, Brig Adu Bediako commended the PNDC for appointing more energetic men into the government. He gave the assurance that he will do all in his power to improve the already cordial relations between Ghana and Nigeria.

Paper Reports Departure of Teachers for Libya

AB271553 Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 22 Nov 84 p 5

[Text] The second batch of 150 Ghanaian teachers made up of university graduates and certificate "A" holders left Accra yesterday by air for Tripoli, Libya, where they have been offered teaching appointments by the Libyan Government.

The first batch, numbering about 170, left last week.

About 50 Ghanaian teachers have been recruited by the Libyan Government for a two-year teaching appointment in the country.

In an interview with newsmen at Kotoka International Airport before departure, most of the teachers expressed the desire to renew their contracts if conditions continued to be favorable.

The teachers, however declined to disclose the terms of the contract.

Soviet Students Council Presents Car to AASU

AB281000 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Soviet Embassay in Ghana, (Fredrik) Maslov, has on behalf of the Soviet Students Council presented a Fiat saloon car to the All-African Students Union [AASU] in Accra.

In a speech, Mr Maslov explained that the gift is another example of the ties of friendship existing between the students of the USSR and their counterparts in Africa. Receiving the keys of the car, the deputy secretary general of the AASU, Manuel Pedro Chalvi, expressed the gratitude of the association to the embassy, the Students Council, and the Committee of Youth Organizations of the Soviet Union for the gift.

Official Fired for Illegal Possession of Weapons

AB272200 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Warrant Officer Barima Yao Twum of the Ghana Army has been appointed acting district secretary for Bawku, in the Upper East Region. He replaces Mr Sule Agbolishi who has been relieved of his post by the government.

It will be recalled that last week the civil defense team dissolved the Interim Management Committee of Bawku District Council and suspended Mr Agbolishi as district secretary. Three days later the government approved the dissolution of the committee and dismissed Agbolishi.

Meanwhile, Mr Agbolishi, who was arrested, has been granted bail by the Bawku police. He has been charged with illegal possession of weapons and will be arraigned before court soon.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Gambian President Jawara Arrives in Bissau

AB271634 Paris AFP in French 1838 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Text] Bissau, 26 Nov (AFP) — Gambian President Sir Dawda Jawara arrived in Bissau on Monday for a 2-day official visit. He held talks with his Guinea-Bissau counterpart, Brigadier General Joao Bernardo Vieira.

The Gambian head of state indicated on arrival that the aim of his visit was to strengthen the bonds of friendship and solidarity

that have always existed between Gambia and Guinea-Bissau and to create the basis for further development and strengthening of cooperation between the two countries.

After the talks, President Jawara will be the guest at a banquet offered in his honor by President Vieira. Tomorrow he will visit economic projects in Bissau and in some regions.

IVORY COAST

Military 'Satisfied' With Comoe 84 Maneuvers

AB271240 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 0745 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] On the 2d day of Comoe 84, the French-Ivorian military maneuvers, there was heavy fighting on land, sea, and in the air. The enemy continues to attack with all the means at his disposal. His objective is to capture Abidjan and Yamoussoukro. The national defense forces — the Greens — are keeping their positions despite the air superiority of the attackers. The progress of the enemy has been stopped at Akoupe and it is unable to expose the strategy of the Greens. On the whole, everything is going on well and the Ivorian military authorities are satisfied with these operations. Listen to Colonel Zinson talking to Oulai:

[Begin Zinson recording] As the chief of staff on the occasion of these maneuvers — that is as the assistant of the generals directing the maneuvers — we have every reason to be very satisfied because, first of all, we still have had no accidents, despite the intensive activities we have had over the past 2 days. The second reason is that, despite the unfavorable weather, everything has been going on quite satisfactorily as far as the airborne operations are concerned. As you have seen, our friends of (Azur) — that is the French side — are entering the fight. They are going to (?attack) us. We will therefore resume the counter-attack in the next few days. We therefore have every reason to be satisfied, because it is not easy to deploy so much materiel and personnel without having some worries. However, we have had no serious worries up to now. We are very satisfied with the conduct of the maneuvers. [end recording]

Military Maneuvers Continue

AB281036 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 0745 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Text] On the third day of the Ivorian-French Comoe 84 military maneuvers, there was optimism in the ranks of the Greens who seem to have stopped the enemy who is said to be getting winded. Following is a report from our special correspondent at the Dimbokro base, Eloi Oulai:

There is great optimism at the directorate of the exercise where the losses of the enemy — that is the Carmen — are estimated at 65 percent. The objective of the enemy was to capture Abidjan and Yamoussoukro. Concerning Abidjan, two patrol boats which were approaching the (Tcutou Ouchere) platform were destroyed at sea, but there is still a commando unit on the Ebrie Lagoon and this could constitute today's naval battle. Concerning Yamoussoukro, the enemy utilized every means at his disposal right from the start and has superiority in the air. He wanted to pass through the Bocanda-Botro-Bouake axis but he was stopped near Mbahiakro. There was some fighting in the night at Mbahiakro, but the results are not yet known.

What is sure is that today will be decisive for the continuation of the operations. The enemy, who has lost his superiority in the air, is said to be on the defensive, but he could gather his forces in order to try to pass through. Such an attempt seems dangerous because the enemy is far from his bases. The (Azure) Greens, who will surely be given considerable air support, will be formidable. With the combination of forces yesterday, there was a redeployment of the units in the field. Moreover, an armored battalion — which has been in reserve up till now — may enter into action today.

On the official side, the defense minister and the French ambassador in Ivory Coast will visit the Dimbokro operational headquarters this morning to assess the progress of Comoe 84, which will end on Friday at Yamoussoukro with a military parade.

Minister Gnoleba Talks About Country's Debts

AB271525 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 27 Nov 84 pp 1, 5

[Excerpts] Minister of State Seri Gnoleba has announced that the rescheduling of debts is an operation which is in the interest of development, adding that the state will pay all its internal debts in 1985.

Of the 13 countries with which Ivory Coast concluded a global agreement at the "Club of Paris" on 4 May this year, there remain only four with which this problem [of debt rescheduling] has not yet been settled. They are the United States, Spain, Great Britain, and Brazil. Questioned by journalists who want to be in a position to enlighten public opinion concerning our country's general situation, Minister of State Seri Gnoleba made the following statement last Saturday shortly after the rescheduling of the debts owed to Norway, Canada, Austria, Belgium, Italy, and the Netherlands:

"Of the four countries with which we have not yet signed an agreement, one must distinguish between two groups: Those with whom we have negotiated but with whom we have not yet signed an agreement — Great Britain and Spain — and those with whom we have not yet negotiated — the United States and Brazil.

"Having said this, I must add that debts fluctuate. However, Ivory Coast's outstanding debt amounts to 1,700 billion CFA francs as it had been announced. And the service of the debt amounts to 470 billion CFA francs annually. Thus, Ivory Coast could have serviced its debt every year, but by doing so, it would have blocked the economic activity, as all our production efforts would have been exclusively devoted to the refund of our debt.

"Our country has made great progress thanks to internal effforts, as well as to external loans. We intend to refund these external loans with the products generated by the national effort."

"As far as the internal debts are concerned, we have taken stock of them," continued Seri Gnoleba. Globally, the internal debt can be estimated at between 60 to 70 billion CFA francs. If the rescheduling has all its effects, we would economize resources amounting to between 270 and 275 billion CFA francs."

LIBERIA

Soldier Executed for Murder, Others Tried

AB272154 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] An army corporal, George (Kotey), was today executed in Monrovia by firing squad after he was found guilty by a court-martial board of killing an old man and injuring nine others at (Loma) quarters last night. Cpl (Kotey), believed to be middle-aged, was executed at the Barclay training center in Monrovia.

Defense Minister Gray D. Allison, who gave the execution order, told journalists that government had upheld the verdict of the court-martial board to set an example for other military personnel who, he said, do not live up to the uniform military code of conduct. Minister Allison stressed that government will not condone any act on the part of soldiers that will be contrary to the principles of the military court of justice. According to Minister Allison, the court martial inquiry revealed that Cpl (Kotey) and another Army personnel entered into a fight at (Loma) quarters last night, during which he, (Kotey), got injured on the head. The minister explained that following the incident, Cpl (Kotey) ran into a zinc shack believed to be his home and returned with an M-60 rifle, which he used to open fire, killing the old man instantly and injuring nine innocent people.

Among those injured by Cpl (Kotey) were Private Flomo (Pehu), Mr Yakpaho Pehu, and James Koleba. Others were Kebehe Yoba, Wulobe Flore, and Yascha Pew. The remaining four injured persons, including an 8-year old boy who is said to be on the critical list, are being treated at the Catholic Hospital in Kongo near Monrovia.

In another development, an Army personnel who opened fire in Kakata, Guiby territory, recently and injured two persons has been confined at Camp Beleyala in Lofa County for 1 year, thereafter he will be dishonorably discharged from the Army, Minister Allison said.

The defense minister further disclosed that a Coast Guard personnel, who opened fire and killed a lady at the ELWA junction in Paynesville near Monrovia recently, has been investigated by the court-martial board and added that if found guilty, he will be dealt with according to law.

Meanwhile, Minister Allison has appealed to the men and women in arms to desist from harrassing innocent citizens and warned that any Army personnel caught engaging in such acts will be punished in accordance with the military court of justice. He said soldiers should always remain disciplined and adhere to the uniform military code of conduct. Minister Allison reiterated that soldiers should protect the sovereignty of the nation against external forces rather than molest citizens. The defense minister reemphasized that any individual or group of individuals who tamper with or endanger the liberty of the citizens of Liberia will face the full wrath of the Army.

MALI

Franco-Malian Welfare Commission Meeting Begins

AB271649 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Excerpt] The meeting of the joint French-Malian commission on social welfare matters opened this morning at the conference hall of the National Commission for Administrative Reforms, CNRA, under the chairmanship of Mr Mamadou Samba Diarra, representing the minister of labor and civil service.

The meeting is held every year alternately in Bamako and in Paris and permits our two social welfare organizations to confer together with a view to exchanging information, making cost evaluations, and reviewing the implementation of the provisions of the general agreement signed between the two countries.

NIGER

Kountche Comments on Drought, Food Situation

AB280855 Paris AFP in English 1658 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Rome, Nov 27 (AFP) — Just over a year after it built up food stocks of some 200,000 tonnes, the drought-stricken West African state of Niger is now faced with seeking some 350,000 tonnes of emergency food aid from outside sources, Niger President Seyni Kountche told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here today.

The rapid depletion of the country's stocks, built up [word indistinct] over a period of years, was due partly to the continung drought but also to food contributions to neighbouring states and to conditions imposed by the International Monetary Fund, General Kountche said. "These local stocks posed a problem of bank liquidities. The IMF proposed they be reduced," he said in an interview.

Gen Kountche added that Niger, which is located in the middle of West Africa's arid Sahel zone, last year also contributed some 50,000 tonnes of food from its stocks to help other states in the region, particularly Burkina Faso (ex-Upper Volta), Ghana, Chad, Senegal and Mauritania. In addition, Niger's latest harvest was "one of the worst ever recorded," Gen Kountche added. "One has to go back to the 1905-1920 period to find a similar situation," he said, adding that Nigeria's closure of its land borders last March had also had a serious effect on the economy of the land-locked nation.

As a result of the drought and the running-down of its stocks, Niger faced a total food shortfall of some 477,000 tonnes at the end of the present season, Gen Kountche said. "How can we meet this? Last year's stocks as of November 1 stood at 40,000 tonnes," he said. "We will import (and) we will also have to call for national solidarity and for goodwill on the part of the inter-

national community, whom we will ask for 350,000 tonnes," he added. The food aid will have to arrive in Niger by March/April, as after that roads become impassable due to rain, he said.

Some aid has already started to come in, particularly from France, the United States and the European Economic Community's Development Fund, Gen Kountche said.

"We have refused to set up refuge camps. From August on, we have been encouraging the population to plant out-of-season crops (mantioc, sweet potatoes, potatoes), which can be harvested in December wherever there is available water," he added. Gen Kountche was speaking at the Rome headquarters of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization.

Earlier today Gen Kountche and Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi called for the setting-up of a special fund for agriculture and rural development in Africa, which would try to radically change the strategy of dealing with the continent's recurrent famines.

Referring to the Sahel zone, Gen Kountche said in the interview: "In the long run, the key to development lies in changing the mentality of livestock breeders to switch progressively from extensive to intensive methods." [Words indistinct] untapped water resources. "The Sahel ... contains badly- or under-exploited hydraulic resources," he said, adding that some (?12) to 15 billion cubic metres of water could be taken yearly from the 3,5000 billion cubic metres in the region's water table without disturbing the environment. That amount of water, lifted through wells, would amply supply current human and animal needs, Gen Kountche said.

NIGERIA

Vieira Envoy Delivers Message to Buhari

AB280955 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Excerpt] The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, yesterday in Lagos received a special message from President Nino Bernardo Vieira of Guinea-Bissau.

The message, which dealt with relations between Nigeria and Guinea-Bissau, was delivered by that country's minister of natural resources and industries, Mr Filinto de Barros at Dodan Barracks.

Receiving the message, the head of state said that the Federal Government was willing to help sister African countries in whichever way possible.

UN Representative Urges Morocco To Withdraw Troops

AB271301 Lagos NAN in English 1030 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] New York, Nov 26 (NAN) — Nigeria, on Friday, in New York, at a meeting of the UN Decolonisation Committee, called on Morocco to withdraw its troops from Western Sahara, so that the Saharan people could begin the process of nation building.

In an address to the committee, the Nigerian representative, Mr R. Omotoye, pointed out that Spanish colonialism could not be replaced by a form of colonialism originating from inside the African Continent.

The New York correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) reports that Mr Omotoye stressed that Nigeria recognised the right of the Saharan people to self-determination and national independence.

He said that Nigeria's recognition of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, (SADR) at the recently concluded OAU summit in Addis Ababa, followed the determination of the Federal Military Government to find a lasting solution to the problem of Western Sahara.

Earlier, the Decolonisation Committee, which was considering the Western Sahara question, had been told by the representative of the Polisario Front, Mr Ali Kentaoui, that by recognising the SADR, the OAU had demonstrated its political maturity and ability to confront the problem which had lingered on for years.

Gambari in New York

AB271809 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Nigeria's minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari, is in New York to participate in the current session of the United Nations General Assembly.

He will lead a Nigerian delegation at the assembly debate on the situation in the Middle East.

Dr Gambari will also take part in the election of the African permanent member of the United Nations Security Council tomorrow.

Minister Raja Sikander Zaman and the visiting Czech trade delegation discussed in Islamabad today the possibility of cooperation between Pakistan and Czechsolovakia in the fields of water and power. The delegation proposed the erection of turbine No. 9 and 10 at the Mangla dam and said Czechsolovakia is ready to cooperate in the water sector, particularly in irrigation, in Pakistan. The federal minister expressed satisfaction at the working of tubine no. 1, which was installed by Czechoslovakia, and said Pakistan will welcome further assistance in this connection.

GUARDIAN on British Withdrawal

AB280950 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Press review]

[Text] The *GUARDIAN* deliberates on the decision of Britain to withdraw from UNESCO. The paper dismisses the reasons advanced by Britain for her withdrawal. The *GUARDIAN* is of the view that the withdrawal of Britain will have no impact on the activities and success of the world body.

Three Charged With Illegal Oil Trafficking
AB281057 Dakar PANA in English 0951 GNT 28 Nov 84

[Text] Lagos, 28 Nov (NAN/PANA) — An American, Mrs Marie McDroom, and three Nigerians are to appear before a special tribunal on Friday on charges of dealing in petroleum products without lawful authority. The Nigerians are Mr J.M. Velestine Tawo, Mr Chudi Izegbu and Mr Akin Afolabi.

According to a government statement yesterday, Mrs McDroom conspired with Mr Taeo in a deal involving 20,000 tonnes of automotive gas. She is also alleged to have conspired with Mr Afolabi and Mr Izegbu to deal in 1,365,000 barrels of crude oil without lawful authority.

This will be the second group of suspects to face trial before the tribunal. In the first group are those currently standing trial on charges of dealing in petroleum products, heroin and cocaine without lawful authority.

SENEGAL

France Donates Six Fighter Planes to Army
AB271110 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Excerpts] General Lacaze continues his official visit to our country. After this morning's welcoming ceremony at Jacques Diop Camp and at the Samba (Djeri) Diallo Barracks, the chief of the general staff of the French Army was this afternoon at the Yoff military base where he handed over six war planes — two Fokker and four (108's) — gifts from the Republic of France to the national army.

Accompanied by General Tavarez da Souza, Gen Lacaze reviewed the troops on parade before greeting the French and Senegalese officers who paid him military honors in front of these new acquisitions of our Air Force. Here is a report by Iba Gueye:

[Gueye] This military cooperation between the French and Senegalese forces is in the image of the economic and political cooperation existing between Dakar and Paris, and Gen Lacaze did not fail to praise this cooperation, which comes under the triple banner of friendship, cooperation, and solidarity.

[Begin Lacaze recording] The friendship between the two countries is both sincere and (?exemplary). It already existed at the time of the proclamation of the young Republic of Senegal on 25 November 1958. Since then, it has developed steadily in an atmosphere of mutual esteem, respect for each other's personality, and an unfailing fraternity of arms. There is constant cooperation between our Armed Forces. [end recording]

Gen Tavarez da Souza expressed satisfaction with French-Senegalese cooperation in the field of (?military) aviation. He stressed that this cooperation did not begin today since France has been by the side of Senegal as far back as 1961.

Tomorrow, Gen Lacaze will be the guest of the Thies region where he will visit the officers' school.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Receives Customs Union Message

MB280834 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Text] In Luanda this afternoon, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the president of the republic, received [name indistinct], the secretary general of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa, who delivered a message from Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso, the Congolese head of state, who is also the president of the organization.

The content of the message is not known, but it is thought that it is connected with the possible admission of the People's Republic of Angola into the Customs Union of Central Africa. While President Omar Bongo of Gabon was the president of the organization he had proposed the admission of Angola into the union and our country, represented by Foreign Trade Minister Ismael Martins, took part as an observer at a meeting of the organization held in Libreville.

Ambassador Designate Meets UK's Rifkind

MB280704 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Comrade Elisio de Figueiredo, first extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of the People's Republic of Angola to the United Kingdom, will present his credentials in London tomorrow. Elisio de Figueiredo, who will simultaneously fill the post of Angolan ambassador to the United Nations, is expected to hand his credentials to Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace.

During the last weekend, the Angolan diplomat was the guest of Malcolm Rifkind, the British minister of state for foreign affairs, who gave a luncheon in his honor. During the luncheon, the British official spoke of his country's interest in strengthening cooperation between the two states.

ANGOP says that Comrade Elisio de Figueiredo will be received tomorrow by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs.

Portuguese Aid To Be Replaced by Brazil

MB231647 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 23 Nov 84

[Excerpt] The People's Republic of Angola expects to replace Portuguese technical cooperation in some sectors with Brazilian technical cooperation, Pedro de Castro Van Dunem, the minister of energy, said in Luanda yesterday.

The Angolan minister stated this to a number of Brazilian journalists who are in Luanda accompanying Murilo Badaro, the Brazilian minister of industry and commerce. He said this was based on political convenience and the safeguarding of the economic and financial interest of the People's Republic of Angola.

Minister of Energy Pedro de Castro Van Dunem is expected to have already arrived in the Brazilian city of Brazilia, where he is going to participate in the third session of the Angola-Brazil joint commission for cooperation, beginning this afternoon.

The Brazilian delegation to the talks includes three working commissions which are going to analyze issues related to the Brazilian line of credit to the People's Republic of Angola, estimated at 7.5 million kwanzas, trade agreements in effect or to be established between the two countries, and issues in the field of telecommunications.

These commissions will also analyze cooperation in the field of food industry and the training of Angolan cadres in Brazil as well as cultural and scientific relations between the two countries, namely in the fields of training of cadres for television, movies, and sports. (?Other issues) are likely to be discussed during the talks, namely (?construction), [words indistinct], coffee, [words indistinct] rural, and the building of the (Kapanga) dam.

It should be recalled that the contract for the construction of this important complex was signed in Luanda 3 days ago by representatives from Brazil, the USSR, and the People's Republic of Angola.

Brazil, in the framework of these projects which will [words indistinct], civil construction, has shown interest in increasing the levels of petroleum imported from the People's Republic of Angola, currently estimated at 12,000 barrels per day. Angola's exports to Brazil through 1987 are estimated at $100 million.

Meanwhile, Murilo Badaro, the Brazilian minister of industry and commerce, countinues his visit to our country. Yesterday, the Brazilian official dedicated in Luanda the Brazilian chancellery to the People's Republic of Angola.

Mauro Couto, Brazilian ambassador to Angola, who (?ended his assignment yesterday), stressed during the dedication ceremony the links of friendship and cooperation which exist between his country and the People's Republic of Angola.

MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee Begins Meeting

MB271307 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] The MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee was convened this morning at its meeting hall in Futungo de Belas in Luanda. Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party, is conducting the proceedings. According to ANGOP, the Central Committee will analyze and discuss (?various issues) and particularly the situation in southern Africa, including Namibia.

COMOROS

Diplomatic Relations Established With Mauritius

EA271906 Moroni Domestic Service in French 1700 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] According to a joint communique released simultaneously in Port Louis and Moroni at 1200 today, Comoros and Mauritius have established diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level. The joint communique reads as follows: With a view to promoting relations of friendship and cooperation between the Islamic Federal Republic of Comoros and Mauritius, the two countries have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level [words indistinct]

MOZAMBIQUE

Forces Clash With Renamo; Launch New Operations

Renamo Attack Reported on Catembe

AB271240 Paris AFP in English 1142 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Maputo, Nov 27 (AFP) — Mozambican rebels who attacked the town of Catambe near Maputo late Sunday were beaten off after a 30-minute battle, a military source in the town said today.

The official daily *NOTICIAS* reported todat that there were no casualties, and military units immediately set off in pursuit of the rebels, members of the Mozambican National Resistance (Renamo). The military source said one of the targets of the attack on Catembe, just across the bay from here, appreared to have been an anti-aircraft battery. Troops guarding the battery spotted rebels approaching and opened fire, whereupon every other Army unit in the town joined in. The noise of the gun battle caused panic in the town, with people feeling towards the ferry that crosses the bay to the capital.

An MNR spokesman in Lisbon said that the Catembe oil depot had been destroyed in the attack, but an eye-witness said that only one shot hit the tanks, causing very little damage as there was no oil in them at the time. The MOZAMBICAN NEWS AGENCY said that several people had been abducted in the attack, the second on the town in 48 hours. Last Friday night rebels killed seven members of the (?local militia) *NOTICIAS* also said that 38 rebels had been killed in various operations in the provinces of Inhambane, Sofala, Manica, Tete, and Zambezia between November 12 and 21.

Maputo Harbor Attack Denied

MB271826 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] The Mozambique security forces are continuing search and destroy operations against the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] armed bandits. General Staff headquarters reports that 38 bandits were killed between 12 and 28 of this month in Army operations. The operations took place in the provinces of Inhambane, Sofala, Manica, Tete, and Zambezia. Large quantities of arms and ammunition were captured.

The security forces have also reported that they are pursuing a bandit group which was detected on Sunday night at Catembe in Maputo Province. The bandits were discovered before they could do any damage and fled under intense fire from the Armed Forces.

The Port of Maputo is working normally and neither the port nor any of its infrastructures have been attacked by the MNR armed bandits. A story put out yesterday by the British Broadcasting Corporation, the BBC, said that the port had been attacked on the Sunday night by MNR members firing from Catembe, a village across the bay in Maputo. However, a Radio Maputo reporter visited the port today and found the BBC story was absolutely false. There was no sign of damage and port workers and officials testified that there had been no attack on the port.

The false report appears to have stemmed from rumors which followed a clash between Mozambican security forces and a group of bandits on the opposite side of the bay. This exchange of shots triggered off artillery fire by Catembe-based units of the Mozambican Army. All this took place on the Catembe side of the bay, but flares could be seen from the city of Maputo.

Forces Continue Operations

MB271200 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] The Mozambican security forces are continuing search and destroy operations against the MNR [Mozambican National Resistance] armed bandits. The general staff headquarters reported that 38 bandits were killed between the 12 and 20 November in Army operations. The operations took place in the provinces of Inhambane, Sofala, Manica, Tete, and Zambezia. Large quantities of arms and ammunition were captured.

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50 'Armed Bandits' Killed

MB271814 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Some 50 armed bandits were killed by the FPLM in Maputo province during operations to detect, surround, and annihilate small groups of gangsters scattered in the districts of Magude, Moamba, Manhica, Marracuene, and Boane carried out in the period from 10 October to 11 November this year.

These actions led to the storming of two camps of the criminals in northern regions of Magude District and east of Manhica, where five armed bandits were also captured. Our forces also captured 5 weapons, 20 mines of various kinds, rifle magazines, and ammunition.

The Maputo Provincial military command disclosed that some groups of armed bandits were neutralized after they had kidnapped elements of the public, including 150 women and children who were subsequently freed. The source further disclosed that the freed persons had already joined their families.

Group Urges Portugal to End Bandit Activities

MB280636 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] The Portugal-Mozambique Association called on the Portuguese Government yesterday to take necessary measures to put an end to the activities of the enemies of the Mozambican people in Portugal. This has been reported by the Portuguese News Agnecy, ANOP.

In a communique, the association expressed its dismay at the fact that Portuguese nationals — or at least individuals bearing identity cards issued by the Portuguese authorities — are involved in the activities of armed banditry in Mozambique. The same communique further states that the current situation jeopardizes the cooperation and the preferential relationship which should exist between the two states, and could damage relations between the Portuguese and Mozambican peoples.

The Portugal-Mozambique Association also says that Portuguese nationals are among the victims of the armed bandits and that other Portuguese nationals who were willing to work in Mozambique as guest workers have been threatened.

SOUTH AFRICA

Botha Urges Vigilance Against Radicalism

MB280603 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Text] The state president, Mr P.W. Botha, has called on South Africans of all races to be on their guard against what he calls criminal radicalism and hate. Speaking at the end of the National Party election campaign in Primrose constituency, Mr Botha said that the greatest disaster that could strike South Africa was if the country gave in to left or right wing radicalism. Either form of radicalism would lead to large scale confrontation, bloodshed, and despair. He said that so much had been achieved by all South Africans, that criminal radicalism could not be allowed to destroy what has been attained.

South Africa could not afford to dissipate its energy through mutual quarreling. Hate did nothing to change the questions facing South Africa. The state president said he wanted to tell people who had left wing or right wing views and wanted to instigate violence he stood by the Defense Force and the police in their role of ensuring the safety of the country.

Mr Botha said South Africa had much to defend. The government would go ahead with its policy of expanding the basis of constitutional power to other population groups, so as to enable them to speak to each other. He said that despite allegations to the contrary, it was the experience of the government that blacks in urban South Africa, as well as the national states, wanted to discuss solutions with the government.

Mr Botha said he appreciated the attitude of blacks who wish to seek solutions through communication. Especially appreciated was the call at the weekend by Chief Gatsha Buthelezi of KwaZulu for peace in black communities.

Botha Urges Citizens to Accept Change

MB280621 Johannesburg Television Service in English 1800 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Pik Botha has called on South Africans to practice politics in such a way as not to damage the country or to benefit its enemies. Speaking at an election meeting in Parow, he also made a plea to all South Africans to accept a change.

[Begin Botha recording] South Africa and South Africans — and not only white South Africans, Colored South Africans, Indian South Africans, black South Africans — will have to adapt to changing circumstances, all of us. We will have to keep on believing in our resources, both our minerals and our mental and intellectural resources, and the resources of [word indistinct]. Thus we need not take the ashes, we need not take the ashes from the old [word indistinct] of the past, but we can take the fire, and in the light of that fire carve out a future for all of us based on justice, based on greater fairness towards everyone in this country irrespective of the color of his skin. Because in that way, in that way we will command respect. In that way the white man will be accepted here as a necessary element, not only to keep peace, but to assist and to be a partner in this great venture of allowing Southern Africa to inherit the greatness which ought to be our destiny. [end video]

Mr Botha also warned South Africans not to underestimate the determination of their enemies to replace the existing order with anarchy.

[Begin Botha recording] [Words indistinct] valuable country. It is country worth trying to get. They want it in their fold. It is part of their diabolical objective to destroy the present order in this country and to have it replaced with anarchy and chaos so that it can fall in the fold of the Soviet Union in its struggle for world hegemony. [End recording]

Treurnicht Cites White 'Striving' for Freedom

MB280607 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Text] Speaking at the close of his party's election campaign, the leader of the Conservative Party, Dr Andries Treurnicht, told the public meeting in Primrose that a new spirit was becoming evident in South Africa, that of a reawakening of the striving among whites for freedom. This was being accompanied by growing resistance to what Dr Treurnicht described as the government's policy of integration.

He said the National Party was entering an era of double talk aimed at the gradual integration of blacks into the central political system. Dr Treurnicht posed the question whether or not it would be a recipe for civil war if a decisive say in white politics was given to nonwhites. He said that homelands should be established not only for Coloreds and Indians, but also for the various peoples of South-West Africa in terms of the Odendaal plan. This would offer a solution for whites in South-West Africa who wanted to retain their links with South Africa.

PFP Leader Defends Party Stand on Conscription

MB280628 Johannesburg Television Service in English 1800 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] At a political rally at George, Progressive Federal Party Leader Frederick van Zyl Slabbert explained why his party was pressing for an end to military conscription. He said there were three reasons why alternatives had to be found, the first being a political one.

[Begin Slabbert recording] The moment you compel whites to maintain stability and order against, say, any disruptive elements or unrest or frustration that emanates from the blacks, your military action becomes a white-black affair and we cannot afford that in a country such as ours.

But second, there are sound economic reasons why we must look for an alternative. We know from economists and businessmen alike — they have made projections on our manpower needs up until the year 2000 — and it is a matter of fact that for the time being military conscription and manpower needs of the economy depend on the same pool of human beings, which happen to be the white males at the moment. And we already know that we are running short of providing the skilled labor that is necessary to maintain a growth rate that will enable us to meet our objectives by the year 2000. So, inevitably, you are going to have a conflict of interests between the demands of the economy and the demands of the military on a conscriptive bases, and again one has to look for alternatives.

And third, there are sound military reasons why one should go into this. For example, it is accepted that an enlarged permanent force assisted by a volunteer reserve arm is more cost effective and efficient in performing the job. [end recording]

Church Leaders To Request Meeting With Botha

MB271934 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1848 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Johannesburg, Nov 27, SAPA — Church leaders are to request an early meeting with the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, to discuss black unrest. Members of the South African Council of Churches [SACC], at a meeting in Johannesburg tonight, endorsed the proposal by the council's exeuctive.

"The church must operate according to its convictions and we now feel we should meet the leader of the nation," the SACCS acting general secretary, Mr Dan Vaughan, told SAPA. Mr Vaughan said he had already asked Mr Botha to suggest a date and was waiting for a reply.

Today's meeting decided a committee should review the role of the general secretary so that a suitable and long-term figure could be found to fill it, said Mr Vaughan.

The committee, whose core would consist of the SACC president, the Rev Manas Buthelezi; Dr Allan Boesak, senior vice-president; and Dr Simon Gubule, would outline the role of the general secretary in terms of the country's needs and the church's responsibility.

Temporary Nuclear Storage Site Under Study

MB271632 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] The Nuclear Development Corporation and the Electricity Supply Commission are studying the possibility of using (Vaalputs) in Namaqualand for the temporary storage of nuclear waste from Koeberg power station. An international conference on the storage of nuclear waste is also to be held in Cape Town in 1986.

Our Cape Town news staff reports that a system is being investigated whereby nuclear waste can be stored in a dry area above ground. If the system is found to be practicable, the first waste will arrive at (Vaalputs) in 1988 and 1989.

Loading of Fuel for Koeberg Reactor Completed

MB271816 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] It is reported that the loading of fuel for the No 2 reactor at Koeberg Power Station has been completed. A series of tests will now be conducted to determine the safely of the system. The reactor will come on stream by the middle of next year.

SWAZILAND

Mfanasibili Comments on Dispute With Buthelezi

MB271719 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] A four-man Swazi team comprising two members of the Supreme Council of State, Liqoqo, Prince Mfanasibili, Dr George Msibi, governor of the Tinkundla, Mr Mndeni Shabalala, and the prime minister's private secretary, Mr Mathendele Dlamini, today told a press conference on behalf of Prince Bhekimpi of Enkaba Royal Kraal that it was a blatant lie that Princesss Phumzile, wife of Prince Bhekimpi, was refused permission to attend her grandmother's funeral at KwaZulu as reported by two of South Africa's leading newspapers.

Addressing the press conference this afternoon at Cabinet, Prince Mfanasibili said the dispute over the princess is between the Zulu Royal Family and the Enkaba Royal Kraal from which Prince Bhekimpi comes, and as such the Kingdom of Swaziland has no jurisdiction to interfere in the domestic affairs and privacy

of any individual. Prince Mfanasibili described the stories that Princess Phumzile was refused permission to attend the funeral as unfounded and false, adding that the Enkaba Royal Kraal and the Swazi Government sent a four-man Swazi delegation including the princess herself to offer Her Majesty's condolences to the Zulu Royal Family.

Prince Mfanasibili said that just before the delegation left for KwaZulu, Princess Phumzile declined to go and threatened to throw herself out of the moving vehicle rather than go to KwaZulu. He said when asked why, the princess pointed out that she had personal difficulties with her father, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi. After threatening to kill herself rather than go to KwaZulu, said Prince Mfanasibili, Princess Phumzile was then asked by the elders to remain while the rest of the delegation proceeded to KwaZulu, and assistance was sought to accompany the princess to Enkaba Royal Kraal to explain why she declined to go.

Prince Mfanasibili said in view of this the Enkaba Royal Kraal and the head of state, Her Majesty the Queen Regent Ntombi, sent a delegation to KwaZulu to express the kingdom's condolences as a tradition between the Zulus and the Swazis that when a member of the royal family from each side dies, a representation from each royal family is always done.

Prince Mfanasibili said the Swazi nation had so far not taken the matter to the press because it felt that the dispute was still to be ironed out by the Enkaba Royal Family and the Zulu Royal Family.

In conclusion, Prince Mfanasibili said that the Swazi nation and the Enkaba Royal Family are presently looking forward to the day when and where the two royal families can sit down, discuss, and resolve the matter as family.

Loan To Finance Telecommunications Equipment
MB271821 Mbabane Television Service in English
1630 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Text] Parliament has authorized the minister of finance, Mr Barnabas Dlamini, to raise a loan of $5.9 million for the installation of more advanced radio telecommunications equipment at Ntondozi. This was after the Radio Telecommunications and Plant Bill was passed by the House of Assembly. The loan raised form Italy, according to the minister, will help put our telecommunications on an international footing. It will also put the rural population within easy reach of modernized telecommunications.

The first phase, which will take 22 months, will include an extention of rural lines with Matsapa and Nhlangano getting 200 lines each, Hlatikhulu 100 lines, Maphiveni getting 40 lines, and Mhlambanyatsi 60 lines. The loan has a 2½-year grace period and 2½ percent interest.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Releases Zairian Air Force Jet, Pilot
MB280748 Luasaka Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Text] His excellency President Kaunda has ordered the release of the Zairian Air Force jet fighter which strayed into the Zambian air space last week. Speaking at State House when Zairian special envoy Lengema Dulia, called on him, President Kaunda said although it took a few days to establish the truth, it was logical that the pilot strayed into Zambian air space after he ran out of fuel.

President Kaunda said that the moment he received the report, he gave instructions that the Zairian ambassador should be approached to give logistics for Captain Mulomba to take off last weekend. Dr Kaunda said the delay in releasing the pilot was due to pressure of work, adding that the pilot was innocent. He said the logistics will be discussed by the Zairian ambassador and the Army personnel concerned. He hailed the warm and useful relations between Zambia and Zaire.

In reply, Mr Dulia, who is also secretary of state for international cooperation, said as neighbors Zambia and Zaire could not rule out the possibility of small incidents like that of the Zairian jet that strayed into the Zambian airspace. Mr Dulia said that President Mobutu will be very happy with the decision that Dr Kaunda has made over the jet fighter. He said this decision will end speculation among other people who do not want Zambians and Zairians to live in harmony with each other.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Asks Support for Ministers' Dismissal
MB231938 Harare Domestic Service in English
1745 GMT 23 Nov 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, today presented wings to Air Vice Marshall (Josiah Tungamirai), and 30 officer cadet pilots of the Air Force of Zimbabwe at Thornhill Air Base, Gweru. Air Vice Marshall (Tungamirai), who was the political commissar in the ZANLA [Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army] High Command, did his training with Pakistani pilots in Zimbabwe, and is now flying solo, an achievement which the prime minister said should be emulated by others in the service.

Of the 30 graduate pilots, 23 were trained in Romania, 4 in Nigeria, 1 in France, and 2 by the Air Force in Zimbabwe. After receiving the general salute, the prime minister stood at attention while a Hunter fighter aircraft led eight Hawkers in a flypast.

Comrade Mugabe, who reviewed the passing-out parade, said the government will not let the Air Force down by leaving it to defend the country's independence with inappropriate equipment. Comrade Mugabe, however, said the Air Force must take cognizance of the financial problems faced by the country and should order only essential items.

The prime minister said the new graduates must not see a career in the Air Force as a hobby, but a national duty which requires sacrifice and loyalty to the ruling party, the government, and the country.

He thanked Pakistan, Romania, and Nigeria, and Ethiopia for coming to the rescue of the Air Force at a time when there was a mass resignation of pilots following the sabotage at the Thronhill Air Base in Gweru.

The ceremony was attended by government ministers, defence chiefs, and the ambassadors from Romania and Nigeria. The son of President Canaan Banana is among the graduates, and Mrs (Janet Banana) was in Gweru to see him winged.

Later, Comrade Mugabe told hundreds of party supporters outside the Air Force base to demonstrate their support for the dismissal of Cephas Msipa and John Nkomo from the government and that the act marks an end of an alliance between ZANU-PF and ZAPU.

Comrade Mugabe said ZAPU is using dissidents to intimidate the people through murder, rape, and armed robbery, so that they can vote for that party during the next general election. He said from now on, the government will take tough action against ZAPU and dissidents.

Minister Links Murder Weapons to Nkomo
MB280757 Harare Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Text] The minister of state responsible for security, Comrade Emmerson Munangagwa, says the government has evidence which suggests that the guns used by dissidents to murder the ZANU-PF official for Beitbridge, Comrade Moven Ndlovu, recently were taken from the house of the ZAPU leader, Dr Joshua Nkomo in Bulawayo.

Speaking in the House of Assembly, the minister said although some people have been arrested, the government is still looking for one or two who were assisted outside the country after the murder. Comrade Munangagwa said when the facts about the murder come to light, some ZAPU members, including Dr Nkomo, will regret.